

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 1 – Acronyms

TEOTWAWKI is an acronym for **The End Of The World As We Know It**. People who use the terms also frequently use the acronym TSHTF which stands for **The Stuff Hits The Fan**. You can vary the tense of the word 'hit', but it always means the same thing, something big and bad happened. In the late 1990s there was much ado over the fact that computers require 3 or 4 digits to recognize year ends beginning in the year 2000. Worse, the databases that rule our lives only had room for 2 digits. Every database in the world was going to need to be reprogrammed to allow it to hold the next information. They even came up for a name for the phenomenon, calling it the Millennium Bug or the Y2K problem.

People who were what one might call Survivalists all said, "We told you so," and stored extra food and ammunition. People who weren't Survivalists got into the act and stored extra food, just in case. Computer programmers worked 24/7 solving the problem and the Millennium Bug never hit. As a result, many of the non-survivalists allowed their preparations to slacken. The computer fix that programmers had come up with was more or less a permanent fix. No longer would there be a Millennium Bug.

Some industries started experiencing related problems early in the 1990s as software began to process future dates past 1999. For example, in 1993, some people with financial loans that were due in 2000 received (incorrect) notices that they were 93 years past due. As the decade progressed, more and more companies experienced problems and lost money due to erroneous date data. As another example, meat-processing companies incorrectly destroyed large amounts of good meat because the computerized inventory system identified the meat as expired. There were, in fact, many such minor "horror stories" like these, which received much play in the press as 2000 approached.

As the decade progressed, identifying and correcting or replacing affected computer systems or computerized devices became the major focus of information technology departments in most large companies and organizations. Millions of lines of programming code were reviewed and fixed during this period. Many corporations replaced major software systems with completely new ones that did not have the date processing problems. It was frequently reported that corporations had already experienced at least minor Y2K problems and some major problems as well, due to date look-ahead functions in code and embedded systems, but it was and still is not clear what the full cost and seriousness of these problems were.

Y2K was a big media story in 1999. In some countries public apprehension was tremendous, reaching, in some quarters, enormous proportions. Some individuals stockpiled canned or dried food in anticipation of food shortages. A few commentators predicted a full-scale apocalypse, among them computer consultant Edward Yourdon, religious commentator Gary North, and economist Edward Yardeni.

As midnight approached on 31 December, a team of US and Russian military personnel was in place in case of the significant danger that uncorrected Y2K faults in Russian military computers might set off warning systems or even cause missile launches, thus possibly risking nuclear war.

The year 2038 problem may cause software to fail in or about the year 2038. The problem is limited to those systems that implement the POSIX time standard (UNIX) and define the `time_t` type used to manipulate time values to be a 32-bit signed binary number. POSIX represents time as the number of seconds since January 1, 1970. In 2038, the number of seconds that have elapsed since this time will exceed the capacity of a 31-bit number (by convention, the 32nd bit is needed to represent whether the number is positive or negative). The problem is likely to go away as 64-bit computers gain prominence.

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During the period of time the world was concentrating on the Y2K problem, a group of Saudis and others came to the United States and went to flying school. They wanted to learn how to fly the large commercial aircraft. They didn't seem to be too interested in learning how to land them, however. The country was only vaguely aware of what preparations were being made and it wasn't until September 11, 2001 that the planning of the Saudis came to fruition. The short version is the people hijacked 4 commercial aircraft and succeeded in slamming one into each of the World Trade Center towers and a 3<sup>rd</sup> into the Pentagon. People who still had some of their Y2K preps left over updated their supplies.

The President of the United States, George W. Bush, declared a War on Terror and sent troops first to Afghanistan and then to Iraq. The troops were looking for the mastermind behind the plot, a fella named Osama bin Laden who ran a Terrorist Organization called al Qaeda or, alternatively al Qaida. He was angry because of the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War. Saudi Arabia is the home of Mecca, the holiest of the Muslim cities. It is also the home of the Wahhabi Muslim sect. This extremist sect of Islam considers itself to be a puritanical reform movement. Followers believe that Wahhabism is the purest form of Islam. In reality, Wahhabism is a distortion of Islam, known as Islamism. Osama bin Laden had capitalized on this widespread Wahhabism to unite Muslims across the Islamic world. The movement grew by indoctrinating youngsters in its hatred while ostensibly educating them. It was fueled by massive infusions of Saudi money.

Bush had opened a very large can of worms. In one speech he declared North Korea, Iran and Iraq to be an Axis of Evil. Under Secretary of State John Bolton gave a speech entitled *Beyond the Axis of Evil*. In it he added three more nations to be grouped with the already mentioned rogue states: Libya, Syria, and Cuba. The criteria for membership of this group was: *state sponsors of terrorism that are pursuing or who have the potential to pursue weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or have the capability to do so in violation of their treaty obligations*. After Bush defined which nations he considered to be in the axis of evil, several opponents of America created their own version of the axis

of evil. Many critics in Muslim nations defined their axis of evil as being composed of United States, Israel and Britain.

By analogy to axis of evil, the term axis of the willing has occasionally been applied to the “coalition of the willing” (for countries that participated in the 2003 invasion of Iraq).

The term has also lent itself to various parodies, including axis of weasels (mocking certain countries that did not support USA on Iraq issue), Axis of Eve (a political action group that opposes Bush), axis of medieval (mockingly criticizes the influence that Bush’s personal Christian faith has on his political views), asses of evil (a mocking insult against George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld), axles of evil (denouncing sport utility vehicles for their poor fuel efficiency), and several other variations. Andrew Marlatt wrote an extensive parody for SatireWire, with the rule: An axis can’t have more than three countries.

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In the period that followed 9/11, North Korea announced that it had nuclear weapons and the Iranians struck a deal with the Russian to build nuclear reactors. I most certainly hope they weren’t planning on using the Chernobyl design.

The nuclear club had started out with a single member, the United States. Stalin wanted his own nuclear weapons and before you knew it, the Club had grown to 5 members: US, Britain, France, Russia and China. There was also a secret member, Israel. Then India and Pakistan joined, making the official membership 7 and unofficial membership 8. South Africa had a program for a while, but who knows what ever became of it? Russia had the most weapons followed by the US, France, China and the UK. In truth, Israel probably had as many weapons as the United Kingdom, maybe more. India and Pakistan weren’t all that far behind. The only nation in the history of the world to use Nuclear weapons was the United States, which did so to end the war with Japan in 1945. It only took 2, but we had 5 more available, if necessary. In the general scheme of things, one expects TSHTF Before we get to TEOTWAWKI.

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NOTE: THE BELOW IS ALL CONJECTURE – MOSTLY THE LIES OF AN EXTREME RIGHT-WINGER. THIS NOT TRUE; REPEAT, THIS PAGE DOES NOT REPORT TRUE MATERIAL. (Wiki’s disclaimer)

## TEOTWAWKI

I know this probably sounds like some kind of exotic Tahitian drink or something along those lines, but it is really something much simpler than that. TEOTWAWKI is something that is constantly coming up in conversation because it seems that as we speak it is happening.

Just what is TEOTWAWKI? The end of the World as we Know it.

Based on the model that has been given throughout the Bible, it seems that the world is rapidly coming to an end. The model has been seen through the ages, and many have wondered exactly how these things would come to pass. Now, with modern technology, and the current emerging governments, it seems all the clearer that the world is on its last legs.

To understand this, I believe that it must be understood what is holding back the emergence of the last one world government. In my view there are few factors holding back the final End-Times scenario from coming to life. Those factors are the United States of America and the Vatican. The United States as a whole is a holding factor because in order for the One World Government (OWG) to implement its idea of blurring the international boundaries and sovereignty, taking total control over the entire personal rights of its citizens, and the unification and control over the world economy, will go against the strong sense of national pride, and the firm hold on the idea of individual freedoms that is prevalent in the United States of America.

Even in the rapidly declining nature of our nation's morality, economy, and sense of decency, the United States is still not at the stage that it is willing to give up its freedoms, however abused, to an international government just for the sake of peace. Therefore, until the US is in dire need of intervention, the OWG will have to bide its time until the nation is ripe for harvest. The other thing that is standing in the way of the OWG takeover is the Roman Catholic Church, ironically thought by some to be the OWG itself. As it stands, the only thing I see that is standing in the way of the European Union's (EU) total unification of the European Continent is the Vatican. For the very reasons that are being described here, Pope John Paul II has been opposed to the idea of the EU and its unification policies because it has every indicator of being the End-Times government that is predicted in the bible. When John Paul II finally dies, it is my opinion, that it will set in motion the following scenario of the end times.

Upon the demise of John Paul II, whether assassination or natural causes, the newly appointed Pope, whoever is selected, will embrace the EU, and allow it to flourish and gain total European Control. The next thing will be a secret EU initiated attack on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the Jews will claim to have nothing to do with it, as well they don't, but the Arabs won't believe them and will start a war over it, the EU will then step in, end the war, and make peace everywhere. At this point the world will be ripe for the harvest and everything will fall into place. I also see a major collapse of the United States, morally, economically, and a world power, leading the way for a worldwide crisis, that only the Antichrist can fix.

The material on the Wiki website was obviously dated; Pope John Paul II was dead. Interestingly, a German had been selected to take his place. Did this mean that Armageddon was just around the corner? Armageddon is ALWAYS just around the corner. In a world with 10, possibly more, nuclear powers, Armageddon is always just around the corner. A synonym for OWG is the New World Order. There are a lot of things just

around the corner: Yellowstone, the Long Valley Caldera, the highly unstable Pacific Rim, La Palma, the Big One, hurricanes, tornadoes, and volcanoes everywhere.

La Palma is a stratovolcano, and is the largest of the western Canary Islands. It stretches 21,320' (6500 m) above the surrounding ocean floor. Two main rock layers separated by a line about 1400 feet (427 m) above sea level make up La Palma. The lower layer is made of pillow lavas cut by basaltic dikes. The thickness of the pillow lavas range from 33 to 1,150' (10 to 350 m). Most of the dikes are located within ~2 miles (3 km) of the west coast. The upper layer consists of basaltic lavas and pyroclastic rocks. Small alkalic domes have pushed their way into this area. Strong erosion of the island over time is shown by hundreds of meters of gravel mixed in with basaltic lava flows. The oldest volcanic rocks on La Palma are about 3-4 million years of age. The word was the island was falling apart and a huge rock would fall into the Atlantic sending a wall of water to North and South America.

TEOTWAWKI had already happened thousands, if not millions, of times. It is easy to cite examples, WWI, WW II, the 1960 Chile earthquake, the 2004 Sumatra tsunami and even the tornado that hit Xenia, Ohio on April 3, 1974 that killed 33, destroyed almost half of the city's buildings and made 10,000 homeless. What TEOTWAWKI really means is when YOUR world goes to hell. Everyone remembers Xenia but few remember Charles City, Iowa where on May 15, 1968 a F5 tornado hit the northern Iowa community and wiped out ½ of the 4 mile<sup>2</sup> town. It was the largest tornado in Iowa history. Maybe not enough people died, only 13 people lost their lives, although over 450 people had been injured.

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DURHAM, North Carolina (AP) – Three large crosses were burned in separate spots around the city during a span of just over an hour, and yellow fliers with Ku Klux Klan sayings were found at one location, police said.

BAGHDAD, Iraq (CNN) – Conflicting reports emerged Thursday from Iraqi officials about whether they knew insurgent leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had been wounded.

WASHINGTON (AP) – The CIA is conducting a secretive war game, dubbed Silent Horizon, this week to practice defending against an electronic assault on the same scale as the September 11 terrorist attacks.

WASHINGTON – Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen won Senate confirmation as a federal appeals judge Wednesday after a ferocious four-year battle, a personal triumph that also marked a victory for President Bush in his drive to install conservatives on the nation's highest courts.

GARDEN GROVE – Three people were injured and at least eight arrested Wednesday in Garden Grove after a motorist drove into a crowd of 300 demonstrators protesting a speech by the founder of the Minuteman Project, authorities said.

WASHINGTON – Senators continued their long-awaited debate today on John R. Bolton’s hotly contested nomination as UN ambassador, with Democrats leveling a new charge in a last-ditch effort to defeat him.

LONDON (Reuters) – International travelers should get used to having their fingerprints taken or their irises scanned because traditional airport security tests are outdated and open to abuse, a leading US official said on Thursday.

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It was simply amazing how much the world changed from 1995 to 2005. The Internet was a principal form of communication, both hardwire and wireless. The cell phone phenomenon had hit the world big time and there were probably more cell phones than landlines. And, the more things changed, the more they stayed the same. The KKK burning three crosses by in North Carolina? Some folks were just out of step with the times. This was the age of enlightenment when all men were brothers. Well, maybe not all of them...

*“It is ready.”*

*“Allah be praised. I told you not to call me at this number.”*

*“Sorry.”*

*“What about the others?”*

*“It will take several days.”*

*“Send me an encrypted email when they are ready.”*

“Jack, what do you make of this intercept?”

“Something is ready and whatever it is there are more than one?”

“Voice print matched the voice to a known Saudi terrorist.”

“Really? Can we track the phone?”

“No. It’s one of those disposable cell phones bought by person or persons unknown.”

“Did we track the location?”

“Only as far as New York City. The call was simply too short.”

“I’d better bump this up to a higher level. They could have been talking about anything, including weapons of mass destruction.”

“Nuclear, biological or chemical?”

“Could be any of the three.”

There is no single, universally accepted definition of terrorism. It is defined by the Code of Federal Regulations as *...the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.* (28 CFR Section 0.85)

Approximately 641 terrorist incidents occurred in the United States between 1971 and 1975 compared to 272 between 1980 and 1999. Among these attacks were 166 bombings, 120 fire bombings, and 118 shootings. During the first six months of 1975 alone, 24 attacks occurred in California, 12 in New York, and 11 were directed at targets on the US Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Chemical and biological weapons are sometimes referred to as the poor man’s atom bomb because unlike nuclear weapons they can be produced cheaply and easily from basic industrial processes available to any reasonably industrialized state. Chemical weapons come in a variety of forms, as blister or choking agents that burn skin, eyes or the respiratory system, or nerve or blood agents that poison the central nervous system or the victim’s blood. These agents can be delivered as liquids or vapors. Liquids are sprayed over enemy troops by aircraft or special shells that explode at high altitude and their contents rain down on their victims. Vapors are suspended in the atmosphere and can float around as a cloud. Chemical weapons are closely associated with the pesticide industry and it is only a short step to convert most pesticide plants to produce chemical agents. Recovered documents indicate that al Qaeda had targeted the US water supply for contamination with biological and chemical agents.

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The decrypted email said, *“The project is finished. We are awaiting instructions.”*

His encrypted reply was equally short, *“Plan 3.”*

Plan 1 was Yellowstone and Plan 2 was Long Valley Caldera. Plan 3 was both. All of the plans called for the simultaneous release of chemical and biological agents into the atmosphere along with the volcanic ash. Had they been American instead of Saudi, they probably would have called it a Triple Whammy. It was simply Plan 3. Five nuclear devices were assembled and ready to be armed. Three would be placed in the ground at Yellowstone and the other two in the ground at the Resurgent Dome at Long Valley caldera. They would be timed to detonate when a strong westerly wind was expected. Downwind a few hundred miles, the chemical and biological weapons would be activated a few hours later to add their mix of deadly chemicals and organisms to the ash

cloud. As soon as the weapons were in place, the people responsible were planning on a vacation in México.

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“The Department of Homeland Security has evaluated information that leads it to believe that an attack on the United States is imminent. Accordingly, we are today raising the Threat Level to Orange.”

“What is the source of that information?”

“I’m not at liberty to say other than it was an intercepted cell phone conversation.”

“How reliable is the information?”

“Reference was made to a project indicating partial completion and final completion within a week.”

“What were they talking about?”

“We suspect that the reference was to some sort of WMD.”

“In other words, you know very little.”

“We know that there are at least three devices based on the choice of language.”

“What kind of devices?”

“As I told you, we suspect that the reference was to some sort of WMD.”

It wasn’t much for the reporters to go on and all put together a brief report and sent it to the newsroom for the obligatory announcement of the raising of the threat level. Most dismissed the threat as another false alarm.

In the 1965 motion picture, *In Harm’s Way*, Admiral Chester Nimitz says, *Well, we all know the Navy’s never wrong. But in this case, it was a little weak on bein’ right.* The reporters were a lot like the Navy when they concluded that this was another false alarm. I’ve been racking my brain for years trying to figure out what real life event that movie was loosely based on. I think I figured it out last night, the Battle of Guadalcanal. Maybe if I’d read the book... Even *Operation Apple Pie* bears a startling resemblance to the map of the Guadalcanal operations. The real name of the naval battle at the end was the Battle of Cape Esperance, originally known as the Second Battle of Savo Island, a naval battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II, fought on the night of October 11, 1942 at the entrance to the strait between Savo Island and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

The 5 devices were set to detonate at 0800 MDT on July 4, 2005.

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 2 – Which Acronym?

Which acronym would apply when the devices detonated? Would that change a few hours later when phase 2 and phase 3 activated releasing their chemicals and organisms? July 4, 2005 is only 39 days away as of this writing. Early vacationers will probably already be in Yellowstone and Long Valley. I guess they'll get an opportunity to see the action up close and personal. I pointed out to another author that the scientists suggest that you can't trigger an earthquake with a nuclear weapon. It remains to be seen in real life whether you can actually trigger a volcanic eruption. For the sake of his and my stories, let's assume the scientists don't know what they're talking about, as is frequently the case. All of the things the scientists are talking about happened thousands or millions of years ago. They are speculating, nothing more. When some fisherman finally hooks *Nessie* they're all going to look like fools anyway.

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Around the first of every month, my family lays in it supplies for the next 30 days. If we have a little extra money, sometimes we buy 6 instead of 4 cans of Folgers and I always have the wife buy me 5 cartons of Kool's. Hi there, this is TOM, coming to you from the fine little community of Palmdale, CA. I've been in the area of the Long Valley caldera back in the early 1960's but I didn't know anything about any Caldera. Never been to Yellowstone, either. Flew over Mt. St. Helen's in a commercial passenger plane one day on the way to SeaTac to beat up another non-taxpayer.

I do know that in a genuine emergency you can hold your breath for long enough to get off a missile test stand filled with Nitrogen Tetroxide ( $N_2O_4$ ) fumes. I've got masks, but they aren't N-95 masks, the wife doesn't want to spend the money. I also have some beans and rice for an emergency. Not enough, but that's beside the point. My .32 auto is loaded with 8 rounds and I have a loaded spare magazine. Hopefully, I can make a mile down the road in my electric wheelchair to the Big Five Store in a real emergency. I'd settle for a bow and arrows if I could still draw a 35# bow, but I don't have that much strength anymore. Maybe I can buy a couple of boxes of .32 ammo and get one of those 20" barrel shotguns they sell. My pal Ron has a lot of guns and if I can't get one at Big Five, maybe he'll loan me one. Do you really think they'd impose the 15-day waiting period during a real emergency? Yeah, I thought so too. My disability money came in today and the wife is busy off spending it. I hope she remembers to pay the house payment; I don't have a topper for my wheelchair.

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*"This is far better than the way we entered the country isn't it?"*

*"Yes, I scratched my back on the fence and praise be to Allah that it healed."*

*"Everything is set, right? All of the timers will go off when planned?"*

*“Yes. It should all work perfectly and there will be no evidence of what started the volcanic eruptions. The same cannot be said for the devices to be triggered later, but perhaps no one will ever find them.”*

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“We haven’t had any further intercepts from that cell phone?”

“Nope. He could have tossed it and picked up another.”

“The Secretary is pressing about reducing the Threat Level back to Yellow. How much longer can we keep it at Orange?”

“If it was up to me, we’d have it at Orange all of the time and raise it to Red for 30 days after every threat.”

“It’s not up to either you or me. I’ll pass it along that we have no new information.”

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“The Department of Homeland Security has no further leads to support the possibility that an attack on the United States is imminent. Accordingly, we are today lowering the Threat Level to Yellow.”

“False alarm, just like I said,” the reporter told his colleague.

“One of these days they’re going to lower a Threat Level when they really should be raising it,” his companion replied.

“That will be ok; we can get some really good headlines out of their screw up.”

“Assuming we don’t get killed when it goes down.”

“You can’t really believe that Osama bin Laden has several stolen Russian nukes, can you?”

“Stranger things have happened. Nobody thought they would slam jets into the WTC and they’d both collapse.”

“You guys from FOX are all the same, alarmists. You ought to come to work for CNN.”

“I’ve thought about it, but I don’t have to work with Geraldo, very often. I could have worked with Bernie Shaw, but I don’t think I could work with Wolf. I’m getting out of Washington and taking another assignment.”

“Where are you going?”

“I’ll be working on a Special. It will consider the question of whether the extra pollution thrown into the air if Yellowstone were to erupt would raise the atmospheric gases to the point that the Gulf Stream could stop.”

“Sound pretty far-fetched to me. Where are you starting your research?”

“Yellowstone.”

“When?”

“July 5<sup>th</sup>.”

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Jack had argued that it was premature to lower the threat level. (Capitalized refers to the national status and lower case to the subject in general.) When his boss had made a slicing motion with his hand and said, “Enough!” he knew to stop pressing. That didn’t mean that he wouldn’t continue with his preparations. He was bitten by the Y2K bug and had been preparing continually since 1998. Cindy sometimes looked at him as if he were crazy; she was more eastern establishment while he was from the Midwest where tornadoes were a common experience.

John William Casey was born and raised in Kansas. Kansas had lots of tornadoes. His DOB was March 19, 1971 and after graduating from High School he’d attended Iowa State University. While there, he’d been recruited into the CIA during his senior year. He spent a few brief years with the Agency as an analyst, and when Bush appointed Tom Ridge the Director of Homeland Security, he’d resigned and moved to the new agency as a mid-level functionary.

Cynthia Elizabeth Reynolds Casey was from New York. She’d attended Brown University and also been recruited as a CIA analyst during her senior year. Her date of birth was April 16, 1972. She’d met Jack at an Agency function and he’d eventually invited her out on a date. They’d hit it off and eventually got married in 2000. They were waiting to have children until a more opportune moment. Her biological clock was ticking, but at 33, she still had a couple of years to start a family. Cindy, by the way, worked on one of the desks in the Middle East section. Jack had worked on a desk in the section that kept track of China.

Perhaps it was just Jack’s upbringing but he was very concerned about the possibility of something happening. He started a program of putting away just a little bit every payday from back about the time she’d met him. By the time they’d gotten married, Jack had a lot of preparations even though very little came of the Y2K bug. Cindy suggested to Jack that he probably had enough stored away. He suggested that she save a similar amount of money and put it into gold and silver coins, just in case because there was no

way he was ever going to stop getting prepared. That was how Cindy got into being the Gold and Silver Queen, as Jack called her.

They made their home in Vienna, Virginia. It was a very modest three bedroom home that had a basement and, of all things, a bomb shelter in the backyard. The previous owner had purchased a prefabricated shelter and had it installed. It had a blast door, air filtration system and a separate generator in its own little underground shelter. Electrical service had been rerouted to the generator's bunker and a 200-amp automatic transfer switch installed. They didn't do anything; it was the way the house came.

Jack had moved all of his survival supplies into the shelter and had more in the basement. The previous owner had put in a generator than ran on both natural gas and propane or LP. The guy must have been a nut, the auxiliary tank held 5,500-gallons and it was an underground tank so it really contained a full 5,000-gallons. Apparently you had to leave room for the gas to vaporize.

Cindy would have preferred to store her gold and pre-65 silver coins in a lock box at the bank, but Jack had insisted that she store them in the small safe the former owner had welded to the floor of the shelter. To the casual observer, there was nothing visible in the backyard that would reveal the presence of the shelters, the tank of fuel or the water tank. Yep, he had one of those too, connected to its own well. He also had the shelter plumbed to a septic system and there was a cut over valve in the basement that allowed you to switch the house to the septic system. Another switched the water from city water to the well. Two manhole covers in the backyard afforded access to the generator and the well pump. It wasn't a very big water tank, it didn't need to be, because there was standby electricity to power the pump and keep the little tank filled. Water pressure for the system came from the little tank that had some sort of bladder arrangement.

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Jack's friend, Bruce Jenkins, had been a reporter for FOX and had recently taken a job with National Geographic to do a study on whether or not Yellowstone erupting could cause an abrupt climate change. Bruce was divorced and he and his former wife didn't have any children. Bruce had gotten very lucky because his former wife had a better job than he did and he wasn't stuck with paying alimony. Bruce was about half into the survival thing, but he lived in an apartment in Washington and there was only so much a person could do in an apartment, especially in Washington, DC.

The District of Columbia had draconian guns laws. Virginia, by comparison, was fairly relaxed. They didn't prohibit you from owning an assault rifle although they had a prohibition against shotguns with folding stocks. As a consequence, Bruce kept his weapons in Jack's gun safe; except for his old Colt SAA that he'd inherited from his grandfather and his Winchester model 94 in .45 Colt that he'd bought to match the SAA. Bruce had 2 other weapons, a HK91A3 and a USP Tactical in .45ACP. The HK91A3 rifle was a semi-auto 7.62 NATO rifle, retractable stock that was banned from US import in 1989.

Bruce had some food stored in Jack and Cindy's basement but he generally tended to MRE's and kept 5 cases in his apartment. He told Jack that in a pinch he could load the MREs in the trunk of his car and come on down to Vienna. All three of the individuals had very well thought out bugout bags in their vehicles.

Jack had the same HK91A3 rifle for himself and he'd purchased an AR-15 HBAR for Cindy after they'd gotten married. Cindy had a Browning Hi-Power, also purchased by Jack and he had the same USP Tactical as Bruce had. Jack didn't have any single action weapons but he did have 2 shotguns, a 12-gauge and a 20-gauge, both the Remington 870 Express combos. He also had magazine extensions for both shotguns. Finally, he had 2 Ruger 10/22 rifles with extra 10-shot magazines. Ammo wise, they had about 4,000 rounds of 7.62x51mm surplus, 2,000 rounds of 5.56x45mm surplus and 1,000 rounds of .45ACP. There were another 500 rounds of 9mm ammo for Cindy's pistol and 250 rounds each of buckshot and rifled slugs for each of the shotguns. His shotgun ammo was Brenneke 3" slugs and Remington 3" 15-pellet 00 Buck, while hers was 2¾" Remington Slugger and 2¾" #3 20-pellet buck. There might be a couple of dozen bricks of .22LR ammo.

Each pistol was equipped with the largest magazine it could use and there were 6 spares. The 9mm magazines held 15 rounds and the .45ACP held 12. Jack rotated their magazines weekly, keeping 2 empty and the others filled at all times. The magazines were numbered in pairs and Jack moved up the line and started over.

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"Give me a beer and let's get those steaks on the grill, I'm hungry," Bruce said.

"Here you go, when are you leaving for Yellowstone?"

"There isn't really any rush. I thought that I'd load my survival supplies in the back of my pickup and take the bigger guns with me so I could get in a little shooting. The firearms laws aren't nearly as restrictive in the western states."

"You start filming on July 5<sup>th</sup>?"

"Yes, I planned on spending the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Jackson and driving to Yellowstone the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>."

"You'll fit right in out in the Midwest and near west with that pickup of yours. Whatever possessed you to get rid of your car and buy a diesel pickup?"

"I did that a little while back when Homeland Security raised the Threat Level to Orange. What I can't really understand is that if you guys at Homeland Security had enough to raise the threat level in the first place why you called it off."

“We had a legitimate threat based on a cell phone intercept. However, the guy with the phone must have dumped it or gone to another form of communication and we didn’t get anything that would convince the Secretary that he should keep the Threat Level at Orange.”

“So what you’re telling me is that the threat level is actually the same as it was before they reduced the level, right?”

“Going to Orange or Red raises most government costs and the costs for industry as well. Unless the Secretary is convinced that the perceived threat is imminent, he has to cut it back because of politics.”

“If I were still a reporter for FOX, I’d have a couple of dozen questions to ask. I wouldn’t, but I would sure want to.”

“And if you asked them, I wouldn’t answer them. That’s the way it has always been and that’s the way it will continue. I agree with your decision to take the extra firepower however. Just because these people fell off the screen doesn’t make what was overheard any less legitimate. WMDs include biological and chemical weapons as well. If it were I, I’d take my protective suit and M40 mask. Those MOPP suits will protect you for up to 2 weeks.”

“I’ll have to see if I have room in the back of the club cab. Turn the steaks before you get them too done.”

“Are the steaks about ready?” Cindy asked. “If they are, I’ll get the baked potatoes and the salads.”

“You fixed mushrooms didn’t you?”

“Of course.”

“The steaks are almost done.”

“I’ll be right back.”

“Do you need some help?” Bruce asked.

“You can carry the salads.”

One of the advantages of not having kids and having 2 incomes was that you could afford to buy a 1½” New York Strip once in a while. If you did it just right, you could get them a perfect medium, which was evenly pink from one side to the other. The secret was to cook them for a preset time on each side and let them rest to reabsorb the juices. Not everybody in the world likes his or her steaks raw or cooked to death. It either

takes a special high-temperature grill or lots of practice to cook a steak to perfect medium. And, don't forget to let them set to reabsorb the juices!

"The steaks are perfect, are you sure you didn't work in a restaurant?"

"That's about 2 years' worth of practice to get them just right. However, I did work on a steak grill in a restaurant in Ames, Iowa when I was going to college at ISU. It takes a while to learn to tell the degree of doneness by the firmness of the meat. The other secret is to have a hot enough fire. Most gas grills don't get hot enough. That's why I use charcoal. Tell us more about the Yellowstone project."

"A few years ago, a couple of guys named Schwartz and Randall wrote a paper for the government on the subject of an abrupt climate change. As you know, Yellowstone has been in the news in recent years because it is past due for another eruption. What the National Geographic Society is analyzing is whether or not all of these gases and ash from another super volcanic eruption of Yellowstone could affect the amount of ozone in the atmosphere."

"I thought that I heard that if Yellowstone erupted, it would cause a cooling of the northern hemisphere."

"The ash in the air would block the sunlight, for sure. However, consider all of the gases that a super eruption would produce. They would have a reverse effect and warm the atmosphere. The National Geographic is studying what would happen after the ash settled out and we were left with those extra gasses in the atmosphere. It's pretty theoretical, but it could trigger an abrupt climate change."

"So the volcano would make it get colder, but later it would get very much warmer and then it would get very much colder a second time?"

"Something like that, yes."

"Gee, what a mess that would be Bruce," Cindy observed.

"We have plenty of time to do the research; I really doubt Yellowstone is due to erupt. The USGS has an Observatory and they'd tell us if that were going to happen. So, what's new on the Middle East desk?"

"You know I can't talk about it but it's just more of the same old stuff. Saudi money is behind all of the trouble but Bush and his pals are in bed with the Saudis. So, the higher ups in the Agency don't want to know what is really going on. And, I can't tell either of you, especially you, Bruce. They would put me in the slam for telling a media person anything, even the time of day."

"What is the time of day?" Bruce kidded.

“Four seconds to midnight, but you didn’t hear it from me. You are taking your survival equipment when you go to Yellowstone, aren’t you?”

“Jack said I should take my MOPP suit and M40 mask. I was already planning on taking the MREs and my weapons so I could shoot them.”

“Bruce, does that truck of yours have an auxiliary fuel tank?”

“No, it doesn’t why?”

“Since you have a few days before you leave, I’d like to suggest that you add one and maybe some spare parts like belts, hoses, and maybe a couple of extra tires.”

“I’ll look into it. Hey guys, I hate to eat and run, but there are some things I have to do to get ready for the trip. Thanks a million for the dinner.”

“You’re welcome. When will you be by again?”

“It will probably be a few days; there are a lot of things I have to do.”

“Ok, you be careful.”

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*Our 30, 50, and 98-gallon cross-the-bed fuel tank systems operate with Transfer Flow’s Trax-II. Trax-II is a computer controlled operating system that includes a dash mounted LCD. The LCD displays the gallons in the main tank, the auxiliary tank, the combined gallons and the operational status of the fuel systems. Because the transferring of fuel is automatic, there’s no need for a toggle switch to flip between fuel tanks. Our cross-the-bed fuel tanks are made from aluminum diamond plate or 14 gauge-aluminized steel, which is powder coated black. They come with all parts and components needed for a legal hookup. \$1,337.03, not installed.*

Bruce’s pickup was a 1996 Dodge with a 6BT Cummins engine. Between what Jack and Cindy said and didn’t say, he was a little worried about being halfway across the country for an extended period. He bought one of those toppers to cover the bed of his pickup. He purchased 4 extra wheels and tires and had them balanced and ready to go. He put his pickup in the shop and had a second alternator and second battery installed. He purchased a complete set of belts and hoses and a small toolbox so in a pinch he could at least change those items.

Bruce signed papers for his wages to be directly deposited to his checking account and talked to the bank about increasing his ATM withdrawal limit. He managed to get a Gold Visa Check Card with a \$1,000 daily ATM limit and a \$2,500 daily POS limit. He left the minimum amount the bank required in his account. He took the remainder of his money out of the bank and spent the extra on rolls of silver dimes and quarters, keeping only

\$1,000 in cash. The coins he bought cost him about \$5,000 and only had a face value of \$1,000. They represent about 715 ounces of pure silver. If the price went up while he was gone, he'd make a little profit. If the price went down, he'd lose a little money. Either way, it would be cheap enough for peace of mind. A roll of dimes has a face value of \$5 and a roll of quarters \$10. \$1,000 = 100 rolls of quarters or 200 rolls of dimes.

Bruce talked to Jack and Jack would give him his shotgun and pickup up a new one, that Bruce paid for, at the end of the waiting period. Everything was handled through the dealer so there wouldn't be any paperwork problems later. Bruce bought a magazine extension and 500 rounds of 12-gauge ammo. He also bought 2,000 rounds of 7.62x51mm surplus ammo and 500 rounds of .45ACP. He figured that the western guns were purely for backup and he already had 500 rounds of ammo for them. His Dodge Ram pickup had a 35-gallon tank and the extra 98-gallons of fuel gave him a cruising range of well over 1,500 miles, if he took it easy, maybe more. It is 2,080 from Washington, DC to Jackson, WY. You can make much of the trip on I-80.

Bruce left for Jackson, Wyoming on the morning of June 30, 2005. He didn't really have to stop for fuel until he got to Chicago and he putted along at 65mph. Periodically he stopped to tap a kidney, get something to eat and add some soft drinks to his cooler. He made the stops as short as possible and lost very little time. Before he knew it the sun was setting and he was in eastern Indiana. He got a budget motel; this was on him, and a light dinner. He went back to the room, watched the news on TV and got ready for bed. CNN was covering the events that they would be telecasting on July 4<sup>th</sup>. There didn't seem to be much of interest on the news so he shut off the light and went to sleep.

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The following morning, Bruce cleaned up, had breakfast, refueled the pickup and headed west. It was another day of the same with the occasional pit stop to unload and reload. The pickup was used but of relatively low mileage. It had the 5.9L Cummins diesel and a 5 speed manual transmission. Unlike his colleague from CNN, Bruce was slow to excite. When he did get excited and the adrenalin began to flow, it was almost as if the whole world slowed down. At the end of the second day he was somewhere in western Nebraska. He stopped early, unsure of where the next motel was. He took time to fill his fuel tanks, get dinner and grab a short beer at a local tavern. The name of this town was Ogallala. He'd come 1,470 miles in 2 days. Bruce still had 610 miles to go to get to Jackson, Wyoming.

He intended on taking I-80 west to the junction of US 30 and that north to the junction of US 89, which would get him to Jackson. He'd spend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Jackson and drive to Yellowstone the following day. He was speculating that it was about 40-50 miles to the south entrance of Yellowstone Park. What is it they say about the best-laid plans of men and mice?

The following morning, Bruce got back on I-80 after breakfast and headed west. He had good road until he got to US 30 but after that, he couldn't be certain. He kept the same pace as the two previous days because he was getting reasonable mileage from the big diesel engine. Bruce took US 30 north to Border Junction where he picked up US 89/State 61. That went north for a while and just north of a little town called Raymond, jogged west and ran right straight north on the state line. It finally jogged to the west into Idaho for a few miles. Somewhere along the way 89 became 61 and it continued to a junction with US 89 just east of the town of Geneva.

There was one hell of an accident at the junction of 61 and 89 and it involved some sort of hazardous material spill. The Highway Patrol told him he'd have to turn around and get a motel for the night because it was going to be at least 24 hours before they could clean up the mess. He ended up back in Border Junction before he could find lodging. He made a couple of phone calls and told the company about the chemical spill. If they got the spill cleared, he probably could skip spending a day in Jackson and get to the Park sometime the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup>.

"Cindy? Bruce. I'm stuck in a berg called Border Junction due to a chemical spill at the junction of state 61 and US 89. Is Jack there?"

"How is it going? The pickup giving you any trouble?"

"Drives like a dream Jack. I got to the junction of 61 and US 89 and came upon an accident. It's some kind of chemical spill and the Highway Patrol said it was going to take at least 24 hours to clear. I had hoped to get to Jackson tonight, but that doesn't seem likely."

"Today is only the 2<sup>nd</sup>; you have plenty of time to get to Yellowstone."

"Did you pick up the new shotgun?"

"I got it today, thank you. So what are you going to do?"

"What can I do? I'll have to stay here until we get word that the chemical spill is cleaned up. Anything new in your neck of the woods?"

"Not at Homeland Security, but Cindy says that the message traffic in Saudi Arabia is way down."

"That's good, lower message traffic means there's nothing going on, right?"

"She said that sometimes it could be a sign of trouble."

"If I were you, I'd spend my 4<sup>th</sup> of July very close to my shelter. I'll let you go. It looks to me like they lock this town up at sundown and roll up the sidewalks. I want to get a six pack in case I can't get one tomorrow."

“Talk to you later, buddy.”

### TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 3 – Sitting on a Time Bomb

Have you ever spent a weekend in a really little town? Border Junction was where Bruce thought he was. He wasn't, he was actually further south, at the Valley Hi Motel on Hwy 30/89 in the community of Cokeville, WY. He'd driven right through Border Junction on the way back and had missed it. All he would have had to do was look at stuff in his room and he would have known where he was. It had been a long, tiring day and he really wanted a six-pack and a drink if he could find a bar. Miracles of miracles, the motel had a cocktail lounge. He had a couple of beers, picked up a six-pack and headed back to the room to watch TV. He couldn't remember if he ate dinner or not, but the beer wasn't getting him drunk, so he must have food in his stomach.

Monday morning, July 4<sup>th</sup>, brought news that there was a problem clearing the highway and it would be until at least July 5<sup>th</sup> before Bruce could resume his trip. He had a hardy breakfast and looked around town. There really wasn't much to see, as far as he was concerned. He topped off his fuel tanks and added 5 24-count cases of bottled water to the stores in the back of his pickup. That would give him 2 bottles of water for every MRE, but more importantly, water for when he got to Yellowstone. The service station where he bought his fuel had a small store where they sold items for truckers. Since he had at least another 24 hours to kill, he bought a CB radio and an antenna with a magnetic mount. Using his tool kit, it took him less than an hour to install the radio. He ran the antenna wire out the sliding back window and set it in the center of his roof. He also picked up an emergency road kit with flares and reflectors. His pickup already had a fire extinguisher and first aid kit. He adjourned to the bar and ordered a draft beer. The only other person in the bar was a young woman maybe 2 or 3 years younger than he plus the bartender.

"Hi, my name is Bruce Jenkins. Did you get caught by the traffic accident too?"

"Oh, hi, Bruce. My name is Mona Freeman. No, I was hitching up to Jackson and can't seem to get another ride."

"May I sit?"

"Free county."

"What's in Jackson for you Mona?"

"A job. They have a vacancy at one of the grocery stores and I got the job, but I have to show up for work by 9am on the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>, or I could lose it."

"You could call them and explain what happened. I was supposed to be in Yellowstone the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Assuming the highway is open tomorrow, I plan to leave very early and try to be at Yellowstone by 9am. I'm going right through Jackson, if that would be of any help."

“Why thank you. That would sure bail me out. I’ll think about it.”

“If you still want the ride, I’ll be leaving about 6am, assuming the road is open.”

“What do you do for a living?”

“I used to work for FOX News in Washington, DC but I just took a job with National Geographic to narrate for a movie they are making in conjunction with a study. We’re taking a different look at a Supervolcano eruption.”

“There was just a special on TV about the Supervolcano. Does this have something to do with that?”

“Not directly, no. There are several things that affect the weather. We will be considering if an eruption of a Supervolcano could trigger an abrupt climate change.”

“They said it would on the Supervolcano special.”

“True, in so far as it is related to the eruption and the ash in the air. However, we want to know if that could lead to the Gulf Stream slowing down or stopping once the climate begins to warm up.”

“We talked about that in Science class back when I was a senior in High School. The teacher was talking about the Gulf Stream stopping and the possibility that that could cause a micro or mini ice age. But wouldn’t an eruption halt an abrupt climate change? I thought the abrupt climate change had to do with rising heat melting the ice and diluting the ocean. That would cause the Gulf Stream to sink and then stop flowing.”

“That’s the theory, Mona. But what would happen once the air clears from all of the ash? There would be more harmful gases in the atmosphere.”

“Which would produce heat, melt the ice and stop the ocean current. That’s sounds pretty interesting.”

“Are you staying here at the motel?”

“I did last night but I only had enough money for the single night.”

“Please don’t think me too presumptuous, but my room has two queen sized beds in it. You’d be welcome to use the other one.”

“I’ll think about that too, Bruce. What got me in the whole mess was that guy that gave me the ride expected me to pay for the ride in a manner I hadn’t expected. I told him to kiss off.”

"I assure you that you'd be under no obligation to me for any of it. Are you hungry? How about we get a burger and fries at the café?"

"Then I'd really be obligated to you."

"Not in any way that I can think of, you wouldn't. It's only a couple of bucks for a burger and fries; I won't miss a couple of bucks."

"Well..."

"That will be \$2 for the beer, miss," the bartender advised.

"The beer is on me. We're going to go get something to eat."

Mona was a brunette maybe 23-24 years old and about 3 inches shorter than Bruce. She had what Bruce would call an average figure, certainly not pudgy or large chested. Her hair was shoulder length and she'd obviously brushed it extensively to get the sheen. She gave in and they went to the café to get a little lunch. This was one hell of a way to spend the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. But at least he'd met someone about his age with whom he could hold an intelligent conversation. They had lunch and Mona agreed to spend the night using the other bed. While Bruce wasn't opposed to casual sex, it wouldn't be right of him, in his opinion, to take advantage of someone who was down on her luck.

Bruce wasn't really a TV person and while Mona watched movies on TV, he spent some time going over the material that the National Geographic Channel had provided for him to study before he started the assignment. Presumably that was the following day and he still had 30-40 pages of material to read. The next thing he knew it was time for supper and he suggested to Mona that they get a decent meal tonight because the café might not be open in the morning before they had to leave.

Mona had noticed the material that Bruce was studying and some of it pertained to Yellowstone and some to abrupt climate changes. That merely supported what he'd told her about why he was going to Yellowstone. About the only thing that Bruce had said when they got to the motel room was that there were soft drinks in the cooler. They had the house special at the café and returned to the room. Bruce indicated that he wanted to listen to the news if she didn't mind delaying starting another movie.

The only stuff on the news was coverage of some 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities and Bruce seemed to be looking for some particular news item, which he never heard. Bruce used the shower and came out dressed in a baggy pair of sweat pants and a t-shirt. Mona went next and dressed in her most conservative nightgown, the one her mother called her granny gown. They watched a little more TV and Bruce put in a request for a wakeup call at 5am. They turned off the lights and went to bed, in separate beds. Bruce was sound asleep in a few minutes and she noticed that he didn't snore.

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The ringing telephone jolted them awake at 5am. Mona used the bathroom and while Bruce was using it, she laid out her clothes. Bruce was fully dressed when he came out of the bathroom and she went to brush her teeth, freshen up a little and get dressed in her work clothes, a white blouse and a navy blue skirt. The front desk at the motel said the road was finally open and they left for Jackson about 6:45am.

At 8 am they were still 90 minutes out of Jackson and the nuclear devices planted by the terrorists detonated right on time. There was an extremely bright flash of light followed shortly thereafter by ground motion that they could feel in the cab of the pickup. Bruce pulled to the side of the road and got out to survey the scene to their north, the direction the flash had come from. Ash could be seen rising from Yellowstone and it was nearly 100 miles away.

“I think that was a nuclear detonation, Mona. I’m turning this pickup around and traveling south as fast as we can safely move. If I’m wrong, I’ll take the time to explain it to your new boss. Hang on while I make a phone call.” Bruce hit the speed dial and called Jack at his office at Homeland Security.

“Jack? Bruce. I was about 75 miles south of Jackson when I saw what appeared to be a nuclear explosion further north. We’ve had some seismic activity. I turned around and am heading south as fast as I can safely travel. Check with the USGS and find out what is happening here.”

“I’ll get right on it Bruce. Thanks for the heads up. Can I reach you at your cell phone number?”

“As long as I’m within the range of a tower, yes. I’m headed to I-80 and then east as fast as I can get this pickup going.”

“I’ll get back to you.”

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You may recall that I said the bombs were set to detonate at 8am on July 4<sup>th</sup>. They had been intended to detonate on Independence Day but the terrorist’s watch was set to the wrong date. Consequently while the biological and chemical weapons had been detonated layer on July 4<sup>th</sup>, the bombs didn’t go off until 8am on July 5<sup>th</sup>. The same individual had set the timers on all 5 weapons and they went off right on schedule, albeit one day late.

“Where are we going and why are we going so fast Bruce? You’re frightening me,” Mona explained.

“Mona, you heard what I told my friend Jack. Jack is with the Department of Homeland Security and his wife works for the CIA as an analyst. You might remember that DHS

issued a threat warning and increased the Threat Level to Orange a while back. That was based on a phone intercept. I called Jack and talked to him the other day. He told me that Saudi Arabia was very quiet at the moment, perhaps too quiet.”

Ring...

“Bruce Jenkins.”

“Bruce, its Jack. Cheyenne Mountain confirmed 3 nuclear detonations at Yellowstone and 2 in the Long Valley Caldera in California. The County is now at Red and the President ordered us up to DEFCON 2. You know the drill, so you get as far away from Yellowstone as possible.”

“Hold on a minute.”

“Mona, there were 3 nuclear detonations at Yellowstone and 2 in California in the area of the Long Valley Caldera.”

“I’m back.”

“USGS confirms that there will be explosive eruptions in both calderas very soon. How far south can you get?”

“I can get to I-80 and turn east in about 30 minutes.”

“When you get to I-80, only take it as far east as US 191. Take 191 south to Verriar. Pick up US 40 there and take it to US 84 in a town named Dinosaur. Go south to I-70 and take it east to I-25 in Denver and then go south to Albuquerque.”

“Why not continue on I-80? I have plenty of fuel and can go like a bat out of hell?”

“Some biological and chemical weapons were released in Nebraska. If you go east on I-80, you’ll drive right into them”

“Ok. Once I get to Albuquerque, what then?”

“Top off your fuel if you can and head east on I-40, pedal to the metal. I’ve got to go Bruce; I’ll try and call you back when I have more news.”

“Mona, Jack says that the crap hit the fan in a major way. Biological and chemical weapons were released in Nebraska. He wants me to go to Albuquerque.”

“Atom bombs? Biological and Chemical weapons? Are you nuts? Who would do such a thing?”

“Osama bin Laden, for one.”

“But, what about my job in Jackson?”

“Mona if the Supervolcano erupts, there probably won’t be any Jackson. Stick with me and we’ll get to Washington. DC. As soon as we have word of what’s going down in Jackson, we’ll fly you back, if it’s still there and the store is still standing. I know a guy in Albuquerque who can supply you with a MOPP suit and a M40 mask. I have everything else we need aboard the truck.”

“Bruce, I’m just a small town farm girl from central Nebraska. And you’re telling Nebraska is involved? I really should try to get to my parents’ home.”

“Jack said he’d try and call back. What town in Nebraska?”

“Aurora. It’s on US 34 which is on the north side of I-80 a little east of Grand Island.”

“I’ll ask, but until we know, do you want to stick with me or do you want me to drop you off somewhere along the way?”

“I’ll stick for now, I guess.”

“Smart answer. I have to make another call.” Bruce speed dialed another number on his cell phone.

“Barney? Bruce Jenkins. Oh, I’m in Wyoming headed for you. I need a MOPP Suit and an M40 mask; do you have any in stock? Really. We’ll she’s about 5’8” tall, with a reasonably slender build. Oh, I’d guess in the 23 to 25 range. You do? Great. I can give you my Visa Check Card number and you can run it thought as a debit. I have no idea, maybe about 6 hours. Look, someone set off nukes at Yellowstone and the Long Valley Caldera in California. They also set off biological and chemical weapons in Nebraska. You did? What communities were involved? Really? Ok, see you in a few hours.”

“What did he say about Nebraska?”

“The stuff was released in the area of North Platt along I-80.”

“That’s about 95 miles west of Aurora.”

“He said they evacuated some people from the areas to the east, so if you did go home, your parents probably wouldn’t be there and you’d get exposed to biologics and chemicals. Later, you’d get a dose of ash if Yellowstone really erupts as a Supervolcano.”

“And your friend has some kind of suit for me and a gas mask?”

“They’re called MOPP suits. MOPP is an acronym for Mission Oriented Protective Posture. MOPP is being replaced by the Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology or JSLIST. He has everything in your size.”

“Are they expensive?”

“Say \$500 for a suit, mask and an extra filter. Not really when you compare that to the value of a human life.”

“Why are they replacing the MOPP suits?”

“People tend to overheat when they wear them. That’s been a real problem in Iraq.”

Ring...

“This is Bruce. Really? We’re just turning eastbound onto I-80. I have someone with me and I called Barney. He has a M40 and JSLIST that will fit her. Mona Freeman. I don’t know I’ll have to ask.”

Mona, same as the actress? Do you have any firearms?”

“She’s shaking her head no. Could you call Barney back and see if he can equip Mona with the Hi-Power and the AR? Great, thanks. I’ll call you when we get there.”

“I get asked a lot.”

“Until Jack asked, it never occurred to me that your name was the same as that of an actress.”

“You’re probably not really old enough to remember her Bruce. I think her last role was in 1972.”

“I was born in 1974, February 8th.

“I was born on July 5, 1980.”

“Well, Happy Birthday Mona.”

“Yeah huh. Some birthday present.”

“Jack said that both calderas were swarming and it could happen at any time. What we saw wasn’t anywhere near a full eruption. I asked Jack to call Barney back and get a Browning Hi-Power pistol and Colt AR-15 HBAR rifle. It will have to do as a birthday present until I can get you flowers.”

“I’ve shot a Ruger Mini-14 before.”

“Same caliber, different weapon. This will be the civilian version of the M16 rifle the troops use. You said you shot the Mini-14, anything else?”

“.22 rifle, .410 shotgun and my father’s .38.”

“Are you opposed to using a weapon in self-defense?”

“If you mean shoot someone, I don’t know if I could. I suppose it would depend on the circumstances.”

“Let explain some acronyms. TEOTWAWKI means the end of the world, as we know it; TEOCAWKI means the end of civilization as we know it; TSHTF means the stuff hit the fan; and, FUBAR means fouled up beyond all reason. There are others and I tend to use them when I’m pressed for time.”

“You cleaned them up. I know what they really mean, Bruce. Are you married or single? I didn’t notice a ring line.”

“Divorced, actually; no kids that I know of.”

“You’re awfully young to be married and divorced.”

“We’re still friends in a distant sort of way. We were simply incompatible, or maybe it was our careers that didn’t mesh.”

Two hours later found Bruce and Mona in Colorado just south of Grand Junction. Bruce was familiar with I-70 and had decided that he wasn’t going to take it. The last place he wanted to go to was Denver, especially during an emergency. He was going to pick up US 50 and take it to Pueblo. He’d get on I-25 in Pueblo and put the pedal to the metal to get to Albuquerque and Barney’s place. Mona asked him why he was going to I-25 when the road they were on went to Albuquerque. Well why not? US 550 went to Albuquerque and it would cut their travel time, if only a little. Smart, too, but could she cook?

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Back in Washington, Cindy called Jack to tell him that there was now a flurry of message traffic coming out of Saudi Arabia. Jack went to his manager and shared the information. He suggested that with 5 nuclear blasts and the biological and chemical weapons releases, the US had probably experienced a major terrorist attack. He also mentioned the pattern of message traffic in Saudi Arabia. His manager raised his brows and looked in the general direction of the White House, then shook his head. He’d pass it on, he said.

Jack tried to call Bruce back but couldn’t get a cell connection. He had called Barney Owens in Albuquerque and told Barney that Bruce also wanted a Hi-Power and an AR-

15 HBAR. He'd probably also want some LBE and extra magazines for the weapons. Get him a total of 13 30-round mags for the rifle and 7 15-round mags for the pistol plus 1,000 rounds of 5.56x45mm and 500 rounds of 9mm +P HP. Barney asked the latest on Yellowstone and Jack told him that it was going to go at any minute; the USGS had issued a red alert. He also pointed out that the President had ordered all of the nuclear generating stations shut down temporarily and if he hadn't already lost power, he probably would.

Over at the Agency, Cindy was methodically going through the message traffic looking for clues about who might be behind the terrorist attack. It was becoming rather apparent that the House of Saud was up to its neck in the events. She and her coworkers began to assemble what, from their viewpoint, was absolute proof of the Saudi government's involvement. It might not make any difference when it got to the White House, if it got to the White House.

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Yellowstone let loose about the time Bruce and Mona hit Durango, Colorado. Bruce and Mona were in a restaurant getting a quick bite. He'd already topped off his diesel tanks and had added soft drinks to the cooler. They'd detoured to a store so Mona could pick up some personal items and were almost done eating when the ground began shaking.

"Whoa. This is like riding a bucking horse."

"Did you ever ride a horse Bruce?"

"Well no, but it's close to what I always imagined it would be."

"You aren't going to need to make the study at Yellowstone," Mona said. "All you're going to need to do now is record your observations."

"Assuming I still have a job when this is all over. We'd better get back on the road. We're still about 215 miles from Albuquerque. Barney lives in Rio Rancho, a suburb."

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 4 – Rushing for Cover

We didn't really feel much in Palmdale. But when we heard the news, we headed to Costco to load up on smokes, beans, rice and toilet paper. We stopped by Desert Storm and I got a couple of boxes of .32 auto ammo. Sandy said there was no way she could cut the waiting period but if I wanted to buy a used shotgun, her personal gun, she'd help me out. It was a Remington 870, so we made a deal. I bought 250 rounds of tactical buck and slugs mixed. The gun was new and still in the box, but who was I to argue? Especially with a woman wearing a loaded gun.

On the way back from Costco, I asked Sharon how much money was in the Iowa account. There was over 3 grand and I asked if we could stop at Desert Storm a second time so I could see if she had any other personal weapons for sale. Under the circumstances, Sharon reluctantly agreed. Sandy had a used Mini-14 in her personal collection she'd sell me. I'd seen that rifle before! I got the whole 9 yards with my 10 blued 30-round magazines. Somebody made one hell of a profit on my old Mini-14 with the Butler Creek folding stock and flashhider. Sandy had some .223 surplus ammo and I bought one case. Ron had a ton of the stuff if I ran out.

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It was about 2:30pm when Bruce pulled up and parked the pickup at Barney's house. They went in and Bruce made introductions. Barney winked at him and gave a little nod. He fitted Mona with the Battledress Overgarments, the 'official' name for the MOPP suits and a M40 gas mask. He had a pistol belt, leather flap holster, harness, 4 magazine pouches for M16 mags and 3 mag pouches that each held a pair of 15 round Browning mags. All of the magazines were loaded and the remainder of the ammo was in the boxes. Barney threw in a pair of GI canteens, a canteen stove and cup. Bruce also bought Mona a KaBar knife. Bruce gave Barney his Check Card number and signed the charge slip. By 3:30pm they were eastbound on I-40. This was New Mexico and they were going like a bat out of hell. Maybe they would top off and slow down once they got to Amarillo. Maybe even get a motel and a little sleep.

They got a motel on the east side of Amarillo and found a fast food joint to get a little food. They were exhausted and basically dropped into bed too tired to even think. The next thing they knew, sunlight was coming in the window.

"Go ahead and get cleaned up and I'll go up to the office and see if they have complementary coffee," Bruce suggested. "We need to go shopping at that Wal-Mart super store we passed. You're going to need something better for your feet and we ought to get some camping equipment and some groceries, just in case."

"Ok. If they have any rolls or anything, I'm famished."

Bruce got 4 cups of coffee and 4 muffins. He ate while Mona finished with the bathroom and when she was done, he got a shower, shaved and dressed in clean jeans and a

western cut shirt. He dug his grandfather's old SAA out of the pickup and strapped it on. They got some breakfast at a pancake house and then went to Wal-Mart. Bruce bought a propane stove, accessory hose, 2 5-gallon bottles of propane, a lamppost and a propane lamp. He also bought 2 sleeping bags, 2 sleeping pads, a small tent and a portable toilet. To this they added cooking utensils, dishes and silverware. He helped Mona pick out a pair of work boots and they got some spam, coffee, canned meals, e.g. stews, etc., and macaroni and cheese. Everything went into the back of the pickup and by 10am they were headed east on I-40. Oh, and he bought a Stetson hat.

I-40 continues east and goes through Oklahoma City, Little Rock, Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville. East of Knoxville, a person can pick up I-81 and take it the remainder of the way to Washington, DC. I-40 ends up in North Carolina. Bruce tried to keep his fuel tanks topped off and never get below 60 gallons. They no longer needed to hurry quite so fast and if they couldn't find a motel, they could always go camping. He hadn't heard back from Jack and couldn't seem to get his cell phone to hook up with a tower along the way.

When President Bush ordered the nuclear power plants to shut down, it slowly overloaded the grid and the utility companies stopped providing electricity before the shortages brought the entire grid down. At their house in Vienna, the generator kicked in when Jack and Cindy lost power. Neither of them was home, they were working double shifts at their jobs. Bush had gone on TV and blamed the problems on al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. From Cindy's point of view, at least he had the nationality right. Because of the Red Threat Level, all aircraft were grounded. Jack had been unable to reach Bruce on his cell phone and he called Barney. Barney told him they had been there and picked up the gear. Bruce, he told Jack, had a real winner there in the woman he found in Wyoming. She was 5'8, maybe 120 pounds, nice figure but not extreme, and very pretty. Mona had shoulder-length brown hair. Obviously Barney was smitten with the woman.

Jack gave Cindy a call and brought her up to speed on Bruce. Cindy told Jack that they had been able to establish a positive connection between the Saudi government and the events of July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The DCI was going to confront the President about his unwillingness to hold the Saudis accountable for their behavior. She said she was sure that sparks would fly when the DCI laid it all out for the President. She didn't know that anything else would fly, implying the B-2 bombers, but crap was going to hit the fan at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

The President listened to everything the DCI had to say. And then, George asked for his resignation. Some people can't accept the truth. There was no way that the US was going to drop neutron bombs on the Saudis. The DCI thought it over and declined to resign. Bush told him that he'd given him the job and could fire him, if necessary. The DCI assured the President that if he was fired there was sure to be a Congressional investigation, maybe several. Surely the President knew how the Congress was always leaking things to the media. The operative word is impasse.

Does the US really have a so-called neutron bomb? Historically, the US built several. They used the term ER, as in enhanced radiation for the neutron bomb. The concept behind the neutron bomb was that while it only gave off a small nuclear explosion, it produced vast quantities of radiation that would kill people without destroying property. All of the ER weapons are listed in the historical weapons section, but hell, the Israelis don't have any nuclear weapons, officially. The US built 380 W-70 warheads and 325 W-79 artillery shells. If we still did have neutron bombs, maybe they were variations of the W-83.

o

"Hey, Jack, Mona and I are in Little Rock. What's the situation around the country?"

"Not good, buddy. The USGS is speculating that Yellowstone will go 2,000km<sup>3</sup> and that Long Valley could go as high as 750km<sup>3</sup>. To make matters worse, according to CDC, the biological agent they released is something that's been engineered and they're going to have to start from scratch to try and develop some kind of vaccine. The chemical weapon wasn't anything special, Sarin. Barney tells me that Mona is quite the looker. I think he's in love."

"What's new on the Middle East?"

"The DCI confronted Bush about it. He still has his job, but I can't tell you anything more than that. Cindy says that there is absolutely no doubt about the Saudi connection."

"DHS contains FEMA, how are they handling this?"

"If you can spell ass and alligators, you have a minimum of understanding. At the moment, they're overwhelmed and aren't sure where to start. Talk is that they will start at the outer edges and work their way in."

"That's the opposite of what they should be doing. They need to get as close as possible to the epicenters and work their way out, not the other way around."

"When Mona and you get to Washington, go directly to the house. All of the power is out and you don't want to be in Washington with the electricity gone."

"Figure 2 more days. Mona is waving so I suppose that means she wants me to say hi. I'd better go. See you in a couple of days."

To this point, Bruce and Mona had managed to keep in front of the people fleeing from the eruption. They were beat and had to get a good night's rest. Over the course of the evening and night, the crowds of refugees caught up with them. Bruce had topped off again immediately upon arriving in Little Rock. In the morning they weren't able to get anywhere near a restaurant to get breakfast. They made do with the coffee the motel provided and left fairly early.

I've already given you their route for the remainder of the trip to Washington. The distance was 1010 miles and the estimated travel time was slightly over 16 hours, according to MSN Maps and Directions. Sixteen hours from 6am would see them in Washington by 10pm, Little Rock time, not allowing for stops. They talked it over and decided to push straight through to Vienna, Virginia. Along the way, Bruce filled her in on everything he knew about the situation and told Mona a little about Jack and Cindy.

"Jack is originally from Kansas. During his senior year at ISU, the CIA recruited him. When they formed Homeland Security and Bush got Ridge, Jack resigned and went with DHS. He was on the China desk at the Agency and now they coordinate various intelligence sources to estimate the probabilities of a terrorist action."

"He sure missed this one."

"Actually he didn't. They called it and that's when the country went to Orange. However, they didn't get any further intercepts so politics got involved and they reduced back to Yellow over his objections. They have this house in Vienna, Virginia you won't believe. It even has a bomb shelter in the backyard. Their standby generator is running on natural gas so far but if they lose that, they can run quite a while on propane."

"Can their whole home run on propane?"

"He'd have to change the jets in several appliances, but he has the parts, so I'd guess it could."

"Where do you live?"

"In an apartment in DC. Because I was going to be on the road for a while, I stripped it of food, cleaned the refrigerator and left it empty."

"It is just a thought, but maybe you'd be wise to stop at a grocery store and buy more food supplies."

"The apartment would be nearly uninhabitable in July in DC without air conditioning. And with no electricity, that means the refrigerator won't run either. I think maybe we'll pass on the food for now, Mona. After we get to Jack and Cindy's we can think about going shopping for food. They have more than enough for any kind of emergency."

"Wouldn't Washington be on the top of other countries nuclear target list?"

"I'd imagine it would. Jack would have said something if there were any immediate threat for a nuclear war."

"Well, what do you call 5 atom bombs going off and causing the eruptions? Ping pong?"

"I call it a terrorist act. A war is basically defined as occurring between two or more countries. Al Qaeda doesn't represent any particular country, only an ideal."

"Pretty sick ideal, if you ask me."

"I'll grant you that. Do you want to stop and eat or should we just keep going?"

"I can get by with a potty break."

"We have the stuff we bought in Amarillo and there are 5 cases of MRE's in the back of the truck. Let me know if you get hungry."

Mona went to the ladies room at the service station and Bruce topped off the tanks. The station had cold sandwiches in their mini-mart and he bought 4 plus some chips and 6-paks of Coke Classic and of Diet Coke. (If you don't like Coke, write your own story. We Yankees can't stand that sweet stuff you Rebs seem to favor. Ron likes sweet tea, but he uses Sweet and Low and it's enough to make you urp.)

"I picked up some sandwiches. There is tuna, roast beef, turkey and chicken."

"I'll take the tuna, what do you want?"

"Uh, give me the roast beef, please."

"So what is Cindy like?"

"About your size, maybe a tiny bit heavier and a little fuller in the chest, not much, though. She has long red hair that goes to the middle of her back. They've been waiting to start a family, but Cindy is 33 so she's going to have to start soon. She is from New York State and went to Brown University. The Agency hired her during her senior year, too."

"And she is on the Middle East desk?"

"One of many. She learned some of their languages while she was in college."

"What's going to happen to the country now?"

"Jack said that FEMA didn't quite know where to start. The first order of business will be rescues. The second order of business will be getting the electricity back up and running. There isn't really a problem, the President ordered the reactors shut down and they will have to be brought back online before they can bring up the rest of the grid."

"How long will that take?"

“Probably a few days, at most. It was essentially an orderly shutdown so they shouldn’t have any problems bringing it back up.”

“Oh, diet coke. Helping me keep my girlish figure?”

“You’re 25 Mona and I’m 31. From my perspective, you are somewhat of a little girl, no offense.”

*(Wait wait for me wait wait for me  
Johnny wait for me)*

*When I first met her she was only three  
And I remember how she followed me  
She was always getting in my way*

**REFRAIN**

*And I still yes I still can hear her say  
(Wait for me wait for me Johnny please wait for me  
I love you more than I can hardly stand  
Wait for me wait for me Johnny please wait for me  
I’ll grow up just as fast as I can  
Wait for me wait for me wait for me wait for me)*

*As we grew older she would always wait  
She’d wait for me by the schoolyard gate  
I would yell at her to go away*

**REFRAIN**

*And now we’re grown up but she didn’t wait  
And I’m in love with her but it’s too late  
She just married someone else today*

**REFRAIN**

*Johnny, wait for me!  
(fade out repeating “wait for me”)*

Remember that one? Conway Twitty, Don’t Cry Joni.

“You have a nice singing voice, but I don’t remember that song.”

“My Dad loved it. I think it was from 1975.”

“Was there a point to singing if for me or did you just remember it?”

“Six years isn’t very much of an age difference, Bruce.”

“Slow down, Mona, we just met. I am very impressed with you; I’ll have to admit. You are extremely attractive. At the moment, I am trying on concentrating on getting us to DC in one piece.”

“What was she like?”

“She? Who do you mean?”

“Your first wife.”

“Nothing like you. Perhaps a bit over-confident, but not arrogant; extremely independent, a bit of a feminist; and, attractive, but not overly so. My Dad liked a song by Mac Davis, called Oh Lord it’s hard to be humble.” (The Ron & Gary Theme Song!)

*Oh Lord it’s hard to be humble  
when you’re perfect in every way.  
I can’t wait to look in the mirror  
cause I get better looking each day.*

*To know me is to love me  
I must be a hell of a man.  
Oh Lord it’s hard to be humble  
but I’m doing the best that I can.*

*I used to have a girlfriend  
but she just couldn’t compete  
with all of these love-starved women  
who keep clamoring at my feet.*

*Well I prob’ly could find me another  
but I guess they’re all in awe of me.  
Who cares, I never get lonesome  
cause I treasure my own company.*

*Oh Lord it’s hard to be humble  
when you’re perfect in every way,  
I can’t wait to look in the mirror  
cause I get better looking each day.*

*To know me is to love me  
I must be a hell of a man.  
Oh Lord it’s hard to be humble  
but I’m doing the best that I can.*

*I guess you could say I'm a loner,  
a cowboy outlaw tough and proud.  
I could have lots of friends if I want to  
but then I wouldn't stand out from the crowd.*

*Some folks say that I'm egotistical.  
Hell, I don't even know what that means.  
I guess it has something to do with the way that I  
fill out my skin-tight blue jeans.*

*Oh Lord it's hard to be humble  
when you're perfect in every way,  
I can't wait to look in the mirror  
cause I get better looking each day.*

*To know me is to love me  
I must be a hell of a man.  
Oh Lord it's hard to be humble  
but I'm doing the best that I can.*

*We're doing the best that we can...*

Bruce had just described the man a woman would end up with if she fell victim to the Chinese curse, *May you live in interesting times*. His former wife wasn't a bad person; she just wasn't a REAL trigger tripper like Mona was. He didn't want to say too much so soon after meeting Mona. Divorce is generally always painful even if it is amicable and neither party hates the other. It probably has to do with a sense of failure. Why couldn't we make it work? If it wasn't meant to be, why did we marry in the first place? The second time around, a person pauses to think about what he or she is doing. Sometimes. Most couples, whose marriage didn't last 5 years, probably shouldn't have gotten married in the first place.

"Qué sera, sera," Bruce said. *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956)

They stopped for dinner shortly after crossing into Virginia. Bruce's cell phone was working and he called Jack at home.

"Cindy? Bruce. Mona and I are having dinner in Virginia. I think we'll be in by midnight."

"Have you had any trouble getting here, Bruce?"

"We've mostly stayed ahead of the people. There aren't nearly so many this far east."

"Bruce, Jack on the other extension. What time will you be in?"

“Probably by midnight, maybe earlier, is there a problem?”

“Possibly, but if you’re going to be here tonight, it will be ok.”

o

11:15pm, Vienna, Virginia...

“Here we are,” Bruce said as he pulled into Jack and Cindy’s driveway.

“Hmm, I guess I was expecting something different.”

“Let’s get your bags out of the back and get into the house. I’m dying to know why Jack sounded so concerned.”

“You must be Mona, I’m Cindy. Jack, there’s nothing wrong with Barney’s eyes.”

“Hi, Mona I’m Jack. Come in and take a load off. I agree, Cindy.”

“So why the mystery, Jack?”

“DCI went to the House and Senate. The Congress has pressured the President, telling him that he doesn’t react against the Saudis, they’ll pull all funding for Iraq.”

“So?”

“A single B-2 took off from Whiteman AFB earlier this evening. It’s carrying 16 Enhanced Radiation W-70 bombs.”

“So we do have neutron bombs, huh? I figured they’d be the W-83s.”

“Nope, modified W-70 warheads.”

“Has Bush said anything to the public about this?”

“He’s going to have complete deniability.”

“If that’s the case, they’ll probably end up blaming the Israelis.”

“That, my friend, is very possible.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 5 – Watching the News

...and looking for information about a bombing attack in Saudi Arabia. Remember all of the Executive Orders I mentioned in *The Cold War*? There wasn't going to be any news about any bombing attack in Saudi Arabia, at least, not until January 20th of 2009. If you pretend long enough that something never happened, maybe it didn't. Or, maybe it was the Russians or the Israelis. The Russians had neutron bombs and nobody really knew WHAT the Israelis had. The US had dismantled its neutron bombs in the 1990s, according to Global Security. And, I've got some ocean front property in Arizona. EO 10995 allows the government to seize and control the communication media.

"They had to have dropped those bombs by now, why isn't their anything on the news?"

"Media Blackout, Bruce. EO 10995."

"What about the 1st Amendment?"

"It's gagged by National Security requirements."

"I don't mean to push the issue, but what National Security requirements, Jack?"

"The National Security requirements are whatever the President says they are, Bruce. That's the way it's always been and will probably always be."

"That stinks!"

"Tell me about it. No don't, it's only an expression."

"I think the US is going to take the blame for Saudi Arabia, regardless. How many of those ER W-70's do we have anyway?"

"I didn't think we had any. It would be impossible to speculate. Probably more than anyone thinks. They had around 300 of each of the models. I wouldn't be shocked to learn that we still have at least 300, maybe more. There are 2 versions of the W-61 that I'm aware of, the .3kt to 350kt device carried by the F-15, F-16, F-18 and the Tornado. There is also the 10kt to 350kt device carried by the B-52 and the B-2s. What is to say that a B-2 can't carry the fighter version? There are about 1,290 of the fighter versions and 525 of the bomber versions, minus 16 of one of the types."

"All with adjustable yields?"

"Yep."

"Crap."

"Yep."

“What is FEMA doing about the eruptions?”

“They finally figured out to start as close to the calderas as possible and work their way out.”

“Any word on Jackson?”

“They can’t get that close yet.”

“Did you see what you could find out about Mona’s parents?”

“Bruce, it is simply too early. I put out a feeler, but they don’t have complete survivors lists yet and won’t for a while. That evacuation was total chaos. But, apparently they did completely evacuate Aurora, Nebraska.”

“That’s something.”

“Right, but one of the Blackhawks they used in the evacuation went down with no survivors. They haven’t identified the bodies yet.”

“So Mona could have lost one or both of her parents.”

“Exactly.”

“Crap.”

“Exactly.”

“Any more good news?”

“Barney said that if you didn’t marry Mona, he’d propose himself.”

“How is Barney?”

“Covered in ash. You can sweep the stuff off, but it is very gritty and abrades everything it comes in contact with when you do. The best way is to hose it off, but when you add water, it absorbs the water and becomes 10 times heavier.”

“These are spectacular sunsets we’ve been having. But, I noticed the temperature is dropping. When are the lights coming back on?”

“Later, rather than sooner; no one expected the lightning would take out so many power lines. At least you have first-hand material for your National Geographic study.”

“They’ve suspended the project until the electricity is back on. I guess that I’m temporarily out of a job.”

“You could always go back to FOX or go to work for CNN.”

“Maybe I’ll try the local TV stations.”

“Wee, look at me, I’m a working woman,” Mona announced.

“Where did you get a job, Mona?” Jack asked.

“The Safeway store at 225 Maple Avenue East here in Vienna.”

“I was just telling Jack that it appears I’m out of work.”

“What happened to the study?”

“Suspended until the lights are back on. How is Safeway operating?”

“They put in a standby generator before all of this happened.”

“I was saying something to Jack about talking to the local TV stations about a job.”

“Bruce, there are no local media outlets in Vienna. I was just about to tell you that when Mona came in.”

“Curses, foiled again.”

◦

In case any of you watch NCIS on CBS and wonder why Sasha Alexander got killed, here’s what happened in real life. Sasha got into an argument with writer/executive producer/director Donald P. Bellisario. He didn’t renew her contract. JAG is gone, but NCIS was a spin-off and Ron’s son John is now a guard on NCIS.

◦

ATLANTA, Georgia (CNN) – Ignoring pleas from police negotiators to surrender to authorities, a suspect in a Florida slaying on Friday remained atop an 18-story construction crane for nearly a third day. Anyone ever heard of a sniper?

(CNN) – Saudi Arabia’s King Fahd – the leader of the world’s largest oil-producing nation – was doing “well” late Friday after being hospitalized earlier in the day, the official Saudi Press Agency said. Well, he was, anyway.

WASHINGTON (AP) – Anyone who took an early flight for a Memorial Day getaway has already gotten a taste of what summer air travel will be like: full planes, crowded airports and weather delays. After July 5<sup>th</sup>, it will get worse. No kidding...

NEW YORK – House Majority Leader Tom DeLay is hot under the collar about an episode of *Law & Order: Criminal Intent* that he says “slurred” him. “Looks like the same shooters. CSU found the slug in a post, matched it to the one that killed Judge Barton. Maybe we should put out an APB [all-points bulletin] for somebody in a Tom DeLay T-Shirt,” Detective Eames said in the episode entitled *False-Hearted Judges*. DeLay MUST be an attorney, that’s so stupid. So is...

SAN DIEGO (Reuters) – A US military jury found a Navy commando innocent Thursday of charges stemming from a 2003 incident in which members of his SEAL platoon beat a suspected Iraqi insurgent before handing the prisoner over to the CIA where he died in custody. Sometimes people get something right.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – US regulators said on Friday they have received more than 40 reports of a type of blindness in men taking impotence drugs, most involving Pfizer Inc.’s Viagra, but have not determined if the medicines were responsible. Who needs eyes?

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) – Speaking out for the first time in favor of controversial base closings, President Bush said Friday the nation is wasting billions of dollars on unnecessary military facilities and needs the money for the war on terrorism.

99% of all the species that have ever lived on the Earth are now extinct. Only time will tell if man will join them. My money is on the dinosaurs.

The most overused line in the history of Television: *He’s dead, Jim*. Which only goes to show you how stupid Captain Kirk really was. Bones had to tell him that over 100 times in 3 seasons. *I’m not a magician, Spock, just an old country doctor. I’m a doctor, not an escalator. Medical men are trained in logic. Trained? Judging from you, I would have guessed it was trial and error. I’m a doctor, not a bricklayer. I’m a doctor, NOT an engineer. What am I, a doctor or a moon shuttle conductor?*

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There should never be such a thing as a writer out of work. The work is waiting for someone to pick it up and write the story. The guys and gals who write the stuff are sometimes called freelance and or stringers. You see their work if you watch TV or read the papers. It is those little human-interest pieces and oddities...

Fleeing From Terror  
By Bruce Jenkins

Twice in recent days I've been forced to deal with terror. The first was when I changed jobs – I left FOX to work for National Geographic – the second was when I was trying to get to my new job – at Yellowstone National Park.

You've no doubt been inconvenienced by a traffic accident that forced you to wait until the road was clear. In this instance I had the experience, and it saved my life!

Blah, blah dee...

And the lady I mentioned? Her name is Mona and she's an attractive young woman. She and I are staying with some friends until the power is restored.

o

That little piece got Bruce \$500, he sold it to the Washington Times, and, they wanted more. Could Bruce return along the path he fled to Washington on? They could publish each day as a separate segment of a multipart piece. They were offering \$1,000 a segment plus expenses. Bruce thanked them for the offer and declined. He told them he wasn't going back to Yellowstone for \$2,000 a segment. They upped the ante to \$5,000 a segment, plus expenses, and no segment was to cover more than 12 hours. Bruce accepted. He figured the piece was worth about \$35,000. The Times reclassified him from a freelancer to a stringer and gave him a Press ID and got him clearances from FEMA to revisit the area.

Bruce got the pickup serviced from one end to the other and added a 12k Warn electric winch, all of which went on the expense account. He bought a couple of boxes of tape cassettes so he could record his observations on the way back to Wyoming. He planned to dictate his story and have it transcribed when he got back. He had 4 weeks to make the trip and submit the completed work; in the trade it's called a deadline. According to the National Weather Service, the Midwest was experiencing unseasonably low temperatures because the ash in the air was blocking the sunlight. Bruce went to a store that sold ski clothing, got winter clothing and put it on the expense account. Because I've already been there, dragging my readers along with me, I won't revisit the scene, although we may look in on Bruce from time-to-time.

o

If pressed to verify assertions that Saudi Arabia had been nuked, Cindy could tell people that the message traffic had suddenly ceased. Several networks got together and sued the government on the basis of prior restraint. They were clamoring to tell the American public what had happened in Saudi Arabia. The American public already knew, the World Wide Web was still up and running, despite the power outage, and there were people who read the Guardian. However, few people cared, assuming the Saudis had finally gotten their just desserts. They had enough problems at home, dealing with the aftermath of 7/5/05. The up side of attacking Saudi Arabia was that the US already had troops in the area conducting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Those .3kt bombs

killed a lot of people but barely damaged the real estate. It wasn't about oil at all, the US paid for all of the oil they took after the attack – at \$5.25 per barrel. That was the price the US paid back when they'd put in the oil wells for the Saudis in the first place, via ARAMCO. ARAMCO is an acronym for Arabian American Oil Company.

I've previously explained, in other stories, that the government could only exercise prior restraint where there is a 'clear and present danger' to the security of the country. I didn't discuss the effect of EO 10995 and how the US Supreme Court might view the Executive Order in view of its clear and present danger rule. The nice thing about lawyers is that they can argue either side of an issue. In fact, that's how they prepare their cases for trial, studying the other side's position and preparing arguments to defeat the cases cited by their opponent.

o

"I sure hated to see Bruce leave and go back into that mess we fled from," Mona commented.

"Was it bad?" Cindy asked.

"Not really, we were in front of the surge of refugees until we laid over in Little Rock. Bruce insisted on fitting me with that protective clothing and arming me in Albuquerque. I'm familiar enough with firearms that they didn't really bother me, but the idea of needing to be armed to be safe in my own country was a little unsettling."

"Getting fond of Bruce, are you?"

"I liked him from the moment I laid eyes on him. He's a real Gentleman. He doesn't have a big ego and yet he's not short on self-confidence. He just sees what needs to be done and does it."

"He'll earn about six months wages from this piece he is preparing. Maybe the two of you should consider getting married and buying a home."

"It's going to be up to him to ask me. I think he's holding back because of his first marriage going wrong. I asked him about her and he'd didn't say anything bad. Did you know her?"

"Yes. What did he tell you about her?"

"Something to the effect that she was perhaps a bit over-confident, but not arrogant; extremely independent, a bit of a feminist; and, attractive, but not overly so."

"That's Barbara all right."

"Oh was that her name? Bruce never said."

“Barbara is an attorney. I heard that her firm is representing the media in their lawsuit over the prior restraint issue. That marriage was simply a case of oil and water, they didn’t mix.”

“I was thinking maybe I should sleep with him, you know, in the other sense of the expression.”

“Don’t do that Mona; it will only drive a guy like Bruce away. A Gentleman only wants a Lady as a long term companion.”

“What should I do?”

“Be patient, Mona. Bruce is on the road covering the same ground that you and he covered after the terrorists set off those bombs in Yellowstone and Long Valley. If I know Bruce, he’ll come to terms with his feelings, whatever they are, when he covers the same ground that you and he covered together.”

“He said something about keeping his job as a stringer for the Times and writing a book that would cover the same subject that study was supposed to be about.”

“This disaster is going to take a long time to play out.”

“I know, but he was talking about a work of fiction, not a transcript of events that will really occur.”

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The first thing that Bruce noticed on the road was that communities had gotten tired of waiting for FEMA to decide what to do and had set up their own refugee camps. Along the way he stopped at several camps and interviewed some of the refugees. He was developing a base of human-interest stories that he could incorporate into his piece. He had a large package of waivers the people could sign so he could tell their stories. FEMA had provided the Times with a special Identification Card so he had access to anywhere he wanted to go and FEMA was running the show.

Bruce ended up keeping two sets of tapes. The first told the stories of the refugees, his personal experiences and was the piece the Times had hired him to write. The second recorded the ineptness and sometimes-outright abuse he witnessed as FEMA struggled to cope with the worst disaster in American history. Bruce had expected FEMA would do whatever it took to help. He hadn’t expected some of high handedness he was witnessing. And, Bruce wasn’t particularly liberal, people like that worked for CNN and the Washington Post, not FOX and the Washington Times.

Jackson, Wyoming was just a shell of a town. The only thing that had saved the residents who had survived was the failure of Yellowstone to immediately erupt when those

nukes went off. They'd had a chance to flee and most had made it beyond the pyroclastic flow. Approaching temperatures of molten lava, anyone caught in a pyroclastic flow died instantly. That's what had happened 2,000 years ago when Mt. Vesuvius erupted and it was what happened in 2005 when Yellowstone was prodded into blowing its top. The estimate of 2,000km<sup>3</sup> of ash from this eruption seemed to be right on. At least that was what USGS was claiming. They'd missed the mark on Long Valley; it only put out 600km<sup>3</sup>, rather than the projected 750km<sup>3</sup>.

The combined ash from both calderas added to the biological weapon the terrorists had released and CDC had yet to find a cure for was wreaking havoc on the country. For 1,000 miles to the east of North Platte, Nebraska people were getting sick, and dying. Regardless of what I've told you or others have told you, a disease like Ebola isn't easy to spread and it rarely goes airborne. Ebola is spread by personal contact. Therefore the organism that the terrorists released wasn't some form of Ebola, thank God. Still, whatever it was, it was a killer.

Bruce had spent about \$1,000 and bought a suit that he could wear in the hazardous areas. The suit carried a rating of III, which meant that it was good against level 4 bio-hazards. He also had a case of the disposable N-100 masks and a MSA Millennium gas mask with spare filters so he could go into the areas close to the epicenter and could visit with refugees without risking catching anything.

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Cindy had been right and over the course of the 4 weeks Bruce was on the road he came to terms with his feelings about Mona. He'd concluded that he'd never do any better than the young lady he'd hooked up with in the motel bar in Coleville, Wyoming. Mona wasn't Barbara and everything about Barbara that had been a source of discord in their marriage was missing from Mona. Mona was an individual, just as Barbara was, but unlike Barbara, she didn't flaunt it. He hadn't pushed Mona to sleep with him, realizing that like most men, he had a double standard.

"How was your trip?" Mona asked giving Bruce a gentle hug.

"That was the saddest thing I ever did, Mona. You wouldn't believe the level of destruction. Jackson was within the pyroclastic flow, so you won't have a job there for a very long time."

"I like the job I have here in Vienna."

"Great. I actually ended up doing two stories, the one I'm going to write for the Times and another that Jack and I are going to need to talk about."

"Oh, saw something that might interest me?" Jack asked.

“More likely disgust you as much as it did me. We’ll talk about it later, Jack. I want you to listen to a set of tapes I made to document what I found.”

“Sure, whatever.”

“Anything new in the Middle East, Cindy?”

“It’s about what you’d expect, Bruce. The US took over the Saudi oil fields and is pumping crude at capacity. We’re selling it to anyone who will buy it at an inflation-adjusted price based on the original \$5.25 per barrel. That has OPEC up in arms as you might well imagine. As it is, the US is currently importing 100% of its oil from Saudi Arabia. Much of our oil previously came from Venezuela.”

“What’s Bush’s attitude about all of this?”

“He’s adapted. Congress didn’t give him any choice. He is using the proceeds of the Saudi oil to fund Operation Iraqi Freedom.”

“I heard that they secretly threatened Syria with the same thing that they did to Saudi Arabia,” Jack added. “The insurgency seems to be dying down.”

“Good, maybe we can bring our troops home.”

“I wouldn’t count on that. More likely they’ll end up moving them to Saudi Arabia. Bush has forwarded a proposal to Congress to reinstitute the draft. And, he’s ordered all of the troops out of Korea and Germany and redeployed to Saudi Arabia. I heard another rumor that they might base some of our fleet of B-2 bombers there.”

“That would be a major escalation for this country to have forward based bombers.”

“We already had some of the B-2 based in Guam and Diego Garcia. The rumor mill says that all of the remaining B-2s and the B-52s will be moved to our new stronghold in the Middle East.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 6 – Trouble at DHS

“Ok, you’ve heard the tapes and the refugees’ own comments together with mine, what do you think Jack?”

“Bruce, some of that is to be expected when FEMA tries to cope with the worst disaster in the history of the country. But some of what I heard was excesses that never should have been allowed to happen in the first place. Would you mind if I took a copy of the tapes and had them transcribed? I think that I should pass this up the chain to the Secretary.”

“I took pains to avoid my name being anywhere in those tapes, so I guess it would be ok. I’m going to finish up the original story for the Times and start a novel loosely based on the study that I was hired by National Geographic to do.”

“Mona said something to Cindy about that. It might be a bad time to write a novel that parallels current events. Speaking of Mona, did you get things sorted out on the road about how you feel about her?”

“Mostly. She has all of Babs’ good qualities but none of the shortcomings that drove a wedge between the two of us.”

“And she’s better looking than Barbara, too.”

“Beauty is only skin-deep, Jack. Ugly is to the core.”

“You did know that she’s a college graduate, didn’t you?”

“She never said anything. No, I didn’t know that. That’s one of the things holding me back. I know so little about her.”

“Hey, I forgot to tell you. We located her parents and they’re alive and well in Kansas.”

“In a FEMA camp?”

“No, in one of the community camps. They’re doing fine. Mona was a history major. Unless a person becomes a teacher, a major in history is mostly worthless; at least when it comes to finding a job.”

“Maybe she should get her Master’s Degree and take a job at a Community College teaching History.”

“You should talk to her about that, not me. I’ll dupe these tapes and return them to you.”

“Fine. I’d better get to putting my story for the Times together. I have a deadline to meet.”

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Bruce submitted the story a week later and the Times was very impressed. They offered him another \$35 grand, plus expenses, for a 2-3 part follow up piece. He told them that he'd think about it and talk it over with his significant other. No, they hadn't crawled into the sack yet and Bruce hadn't proposed. He was getting close, however. First he wanted to talk to Mona about going to graduate school and becoming a teacher. He also had to find out more about her and her family. Finally, he wanted to actually meet her parents.

"Mona, we need to talk."

"What about Bruce?"

"You didn't tell me you were a college graduate and a history major. It made me realize that there is so much about you that I don't know. I'll have to admit, right up front, that I'm very fond of you. Could you fill me in a little on your background, and I'll do the same?"

"Well, I was born on July 5, 1980 in Aurora, Nebraska. My parents are Edgar 'Ed' and Rose Freeman... ..and after I graduated from college, there was no money for me to get my Master's Degree and I ended up working in a grocery store as a checker. Now, tell me about you."

"What you see is what you get, Mona. I was born February 8, 1974 in Salina, Kansas. That's almost due south of Aurora. My parents are Robert and Mary Jenkins... ..and I worked a series of jobs as a reporter until I landed the job with FOX News. I met Barbara here in Washington and we were married shortly thereafter. We were just a bad mix and after a while drifted apart. Finally she suggested that our marriage had been a mistake for both of us and that we should get an uncontested divorce. I agreed."

"Salina is where my parents are. Small world, isn't it?"

"The Times wants me to do a follow up article on the piece I just submitted. I thought maybe I go to Kansas and talk to the people that were evacuated in front of the biological agent. My folks are in Salina. Your folks are in Salina. I'd really like to see you quit your job, get your Master's Degree and become a teacher, if that's what you want. I guess what I'm trying to say is, Mona, will you marry me?"

"YES. Yea, no more smiling at sour faces."

"It will be your first, and hopefully only wedding, do you want a fancy ceremony?"

"Why don't I quit my job, you accept the Times assignment and we'll start the story in Salina so our parents can see us get married. I don't want a fancy wedding and in light

of the condition the country is in, I believe it would be inappropriate. We can get married in your church in Salina with just our immediate families present.”

“Cindy helped me pick out this ring, I hope it fits.”

“It will, assuming it fit her. She and I wear the same size of ring.”

“I’d have bought a larger stone, I had the money, but we need to buy a home and I assumed the money would be better spent on that.”

“I can’t wait to show Cindy.”

“Cindy has already seen the ring.”

“Not on my hand, she hasn’t. What kind of deadline did they give you on the story if you accepted the assignment?”

“4 weeks.”

“Perfect. I’m not required to give 2-weeks’ notice so I tell the store manager tomorrow that I’m quitting to get married and return to college.”

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“So you finally got off the dime,” Jack laughed. “Cindy told me you bought the ring. Congratulations, you two. When and where is the wedding?”

“In Salina, Kansas in about a week. I wanted you to be my best man, but it would be too much to ask you to come to Kansas.”

“I’ll be in Salina, Kansas around that time. The Secretary wants me to do a fact-finding trip and either confirm or dispute the facts in that piece you prepared. I’ve already asked Cindy to take time off and make the trip with me.”

“Cindy, would you be my Matron of Honor?”

“Thank you, Mona. Of course I will.”

“Jack, how are you making the trip?”

“I’m pulling a HMWWV from the Motor Pool. It’s up armored and even carries a M240B machinegun.”

“You should get them to add one of those 98-gallon fuel tanks that I have in my pickup.”

“It has the winch, and I’ll be pulling a fuel trailer with 300 gallons of fuel. Cindy and I were planning on taking our weapons, in case we have the opportunity to get in a little target practice. I asked, and believe it or not the Department agreed, for the vehicle to be equipped with an M-240B machinegun. In order to cover the situation with my having the M-240B and other things, I’ll temporarily become a sworn member of the Secret Service. I’ve already qualified with all of the weapons I’ll be authorized to carry. They also issued Cindy a federal CCW for the duration of the trip. If you want, I’ll see if I can get CCWs issued for Mona and you.”

“That might not be a bad idea. Mona are you up to qualifying for a federal CCW?”

“What does that entail?”

“Simple, Mona. You have to shoot a qualifying score with any weapon covered on the CCW and pass a simple written test. I have the study guide Cindy used and it isn’t that difficult.”

“I guess so...”

“Mona will try and qualify with the AR and the Hi-Power,” Bruce suggested.

“That’s what Cindy qualified with and she didn’t have a bit of trouble.”

“Why the Secret Service and not the FBI or one of the other organizations that already have people in the DHS?”

“Simply because the USSS is a branch of the DHS. I also qualified with the MP5-N. Do you want me to arrange that for you?”

“I don’t have an MP5-N.”

“I can get 2 issued to me.”

“In that case, sure.”

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In fact, the Secretary, DHS was very disturbed by Bruce’s report when it hit his desk. He wanted to keep a tight rein on the situation and limit the knowledge of what Bruce reported to the few people who already possessed the knowledge. He’d run a proposal by the White House and the President didn’t want the headache of this coming to the surface. Bush knew vaguely who Bruce was from his days at FOX News and had instructed the Secretary to include Bruce in. That was the greatest assurance that both the White House and DHS could have, e.g., having an imbedded reporter along who knew enough to keep his mouth shut until the true facts could be determined. The head of the White House Detail suggested that they put Jack in charge of the investigation and also

make him, and if necessary Bruce, temporary members of the White House Detail of the USSS. Jack knew this but wasn't at liberty to say anything until the Secretary of DHS had a talk with Bruce.

Bruce told the Times that he'd do the story and have it on their desk in 4 weeks, for \$35,000. They gave him an expense advance equal to the expenses he'd incurred while on the road for the previous story, which had raised their circulation noticeably, more than offsetting the cost of the story. They'd done a background check on Bruce and the people at FOX News held him in high regard, citing his professionalism and objectivity. The advance was the Editor's idea because he'd heard that Bruce was getting married on the trip. Washington is the sort of town where you can't pee without someone hearing the water splash.

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"I'd like to start off by saying that we appreciate your discretion in this matter Bruce," the Secretary said. "We aren't looking to whitewash anything and I had words with the Oval Office about including you in with our investigation. All we're asking for is an opportunity to clean up this mess. At the suggestion of the head of the White House Detail, we'd like to make you a temporary Secret Service Agent and a temporary member of the White House Detail, the same as we've done with Jack. I understand that you're doing a follow up story for the Times. That will make a good cover for you. We want Jack and you to thoroughly investigate what you discovered. We'll need facts and more facts to get to the bottom of this and see that it is stopped and doesn't occur again."

"Are we talking cover up?"

"We're talking about cleaning up something that never should have happened and seeing that it doesn't occur again. Is the public's right to know more important than that mission?"

"Pretty fine line, Mr. Secretary."

"You will not be held accountable to any official secrets act and if you are dissatisfied with the resulting actions, you can always report your story so long as you report both sides evenly and fairly. We've done a thorough background check and feel that you're the man for this job. You've already demonstrated your support of your country by taking the story to Jack instead of putting it in the Times. If either Jack or you witness any flagrant violation that requires immediate action, you will have the legal authority. Otherwise, assemble the facts and we'll handle it from the top down."

"Not everyone had something bad to say about FEMA, Mr. Secretary. I believe that part of the problem is FEMA finding itself up against the worst disaster in the history of this country and being unprepared to cope. That's what Jack thinks, too. I haven't personally witnessed anything that would call for anything more than a caution or a reprimand. That's the primary reason I took the story to Jack."

“That’s good enough for me, Bruce. Are you with us on this?”

“Under the terms you described to me yes. What next?”

“Call this number. It’s the private line for the head of the White House Detail. He’ll set up a couple of days of intensive training. You’ll need to be familiar with the limits of your authority and how to react in particular situations. You’ll also need weapons training and to be qualified on a pistol, rifle, MP5-N and the M-240B machinegun. We are going to approve a federal CCW for Mona Freeman. She is the young woman you are planning on marrying, right?”

“Yes sir.”

“Call the number I gave you. Thanks Bruce.”

“Thank you Mr. Secretary.”

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A rather surprising development, but nothing to be alarmed about, yet. Bruce had no intention of letting the DHS or White House whitewash anything. If they would act promptly to clean up the mess and ensure that it never happened again, he might give them a pass and not report the story or, tone it down to something the White House could live with. The problem with stories like this was that members of the more liberal media liked to take a few facts, blow them totally out of proportion and get the Congress involved, purely on a political agenda. The ultra-conservative media was just as bad as the ultra-liberal media, in Bruce’s opinion.

“Have you already taken your classes, Jack?”

“Yep. Not much to it, some do’s and don’ts. Mostly it’s the limits on our authority. We will be peace officers, if only temporarily, and have to conform to the standards expected of all peace officer’s. We aren’t to use the authority except in the most extreme of circumstances involving serious bodily harm or possible death. We will also have a secret Executive Order requiring all federal authorities to cooperate with us. We’ll sort of be like Robert Conrad and Ross Martin. You know, James West and Artemis Gordon. (You knew I got the idea somewhere, right?)

“I looked up that HMMWV on Global Security. That SOB is a regular War Wagon. Are you sure we need a .30 caliber machinegun?”

“Maybe not, but better safe than sorry. Maybe the abuse is nothing more than what you personally witnessed. Or, maybe it is more pervasive. In the latter event, who knows what we might run up against? By the way, the USSS will provide us with suppressors for our H&K USP Tactical pistols and our HK91A3s. The gals won’t get suppressors for

their weapons. However, rather than have them carrying the AR-15s I'm going to check out a pair of M16A3s with the red dot sights."

This situation was getting curiously by the moment. Bruce considered himself to be a reporter, not a USSS spy. He'd told the Secretary yes and intended to live up to his word. He was, however, getting an uneasy feeling about this whole thing. His reporter's nose could smell cover-up and it was beginning to stink to high heaven. However, the maxim said not to judge a book by its cover. Bruce would wait and see for himself and act accordingly.

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"...I now pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss the bride."

"I think you've gotten yourself a winner this time, Bruce. I never had anything against Barbara, but I'll have to admit that I never could quite picture the two of you together."

"Thanks, Dad. I agree. I was fairly skeptical at first, once burned and all of that. But I think this marriage will work out just fine."

"Well, Ed, why don't you and Rose move out of that camp and in with Mary and me? I know that camp is better than most, but you have to be getting tired of the cafeteria food. We have plenty of room here and as soon as the area up in Nebraska is declared safe, I'm sure you will want to return home. Being my son and your daughter just tied the knot, I'd feel pretty uncomfortable with the two of you living in a tent."

"I think Rose would do anything to get out of the camp. So, on both her and my behalf I accept. I read that piece Bruce wrote for the Washington Times. They sure had a heck of a time fleeing in front of that eruption and those refugees. Did you notice that both Bruce and Jack are wearing guns? What is that all about?"

"Bruce wouldn't say and I didn't ask Jack because I don't really know him well enough to ask a question like that. Both of the girls have weapons, too, or didn't you notice?"

"I noticed all right. I asked Mona why she was carrying a 9mm handgun and she showed me a federal CCW. She refused to comment any further. I have a bad feeling about those 4 young people finding it necessary to be armed. I'm not against guns; don't get me wrong, Bob. And it's not like I didn't raise her to know how to use firearms if the situation called for it. Still, a guy has to wonder what they're into that would require them being armed. Bruce is doing a follow up article on his earlier story?"

"That what he said. I got the feeling that there is something more to it than he said. His body English gave him away. When I asked about the first story, I got the impression that he learned something he wasn't telling me."

"What are the two of you talking about?" Mona asked.

“Conspiracy theories. And why Cindy and you are armed and Jack and Bruce are carrying guns, even at a wedding.”

“Well, I could tell you, but...”

“I know, honey, you’d have to kill us, right?”

“I was going to say it might get you killed, Dad.”

“What in the hell have you gotten yourself into, Mona?”

“I guess the short answer is the guys are checking on a possible conspiracy and I’ve already said too much, Dad. You guys keep that under your hat and please don’t bring the subject up again. Sometimes it’s what you know that can get you killed.”

“Where does Cindy work?”

“The CIA.”

“And Jack?”

“The Department of Homeland Security, but he used to work for the CIA, too.”

“Jesus H. Christ. You be careful, girl.”

“Dad, both Cindy and I are fully qualified on our Browning Hi-Power pistols and the M16A3s we have. You didn’t see it, but there are other weapons in the HMWWV.”

“I need a drink, how about you Ed?”

“Make mine a triple.”

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Everything was as it should be at the Salina Camp. However, the City of Salina ran the camp and FEMA was only marginally involved. Bruce spent a day interviewing people for his story including his new in-laws. The word on the Blackhawk going down was that it was a mechanical problem that caused the rotor to seize; several people had witnessed the crash. Bruce got some good material. Their next stop was a camp in Pueblo, Colorado. FEMA was in charge of this particular camp. If one didn’t look closely, everything appeared to be on the up and up. However, the peoples’ eyes told a different story. No one would open up to either of the men except to relate how he or she’d fled from the eruption and managed to escape.

“Bruce, I have an idea. One of the men I interviewed today said something to make me believe that he’s was on the run from the law. I’d like to suggest that we arrest the guy as a fugitive from justice and haul him down to the camp in Salina. I think once we get him out of here and he gets into a decent camp, he might just open up.”

“It’s in their eyes, but nobody is saying anything.”

“I agree. Man a conspiracy theorist would have a field day with the people in this camp. I’m afraid if we say anything to the camp administrators, they’ll kill the guy and we won’t find anything out.”

“Then let’s just arrest the guy and if they try to interfere, we’ll lay the EO on them.”

“As much as I hate to involve our wives, 4 guns are better than 2. So far, they all believe that you’re a reporter and I’m from DHS just making a routine inquiry. Which, as far as it goes, is perfectly true. However, once we lay the badges on them, they might act very differently.”

“Where is the nearest military base?”

“Colorado Springs, why?”

“Having a HMWWV equipped with an M-240B is comforting and having the wives along with their weapons is even more comforting. But, with that EO, we can get some soldiers from the nearest military base and avoid involving the wives.”

“Good idea. How many people do you think we’ll need?”

“A Platoon would make me feel good and a Company would make me feel even better. I think once we pull this guy out of the camp, we’re going to need to leave the soldiers here to avoid the administrators taking reprisals against the people who we leave behind.”

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To all military and civilian employees of the US government:

The bearers of this Executive Order, John ‘Jack’ W. Casey and Bruce R. Jenkins are members of the United States Secret Service and assigned to the White House Detail. You are hereby instructed and ordered to provide and render them all aid and assistance they may require. They are acting on behalf of this office and have full authority to make any request of any military or civilian member of the Government of the United States.

Signed

George W. Bush  
President

EO # 14444 (Top Secret)

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“Gentlemen,” the General said. “Frankly, I thought the Sergeant of the Guard was crazy. I’ve never seen a Top Secret Executive Order before. What is it that I can do to assist you?”

“Aren’t you going to call and verify that the EO is genuine?” Jack asked.

“I did that before you were ever allowed into my office. I got my pedigree read to me by a very irritated White House Chief of Staff. The letter is genuine all right.”

“General, the long and short of it is that we conducting an investigation of alleged FEMA abuses. I do work for DHS, but at the moment, I operating under the authority of my assignment to the USSS. Bruce is a stringer for the Washington Times but he is also acting in his capacity as a USSS agent. We require as many troops as are necessary to secure the FEMA camp in Pueblo from the administrators of the camp and the people working for them. We’d like to suggest at least a Company of Infantry or more if you choose.”

“I’d heard rumors but there has never been any proof of anything untoward occurring in the camp. If you only want a Company that’s fine with me, but if I were in charge, I’d send more people.”

“Neither of us is military and you will be in charge of that camp as soon as we leave. You take as many people as makes you feel comfortable.”

“Fine, gentlemen, I’m going to send in a small Battalion. Once we have the place secured, we’ll return the unneeded solders to post.”

“More is better, General?”

“Something like that, Jack. I can probably get by with the platoon once we secure the place. Did the people appear to you that they’d been properly fed?”

“Hmm, now that you mention it, maybe not.”

“I’ll send in some cooks and rations, too.”

BTW, Jack was from Wichita, Kansas, which explained how the two had met in the first place.

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 7 – Jack and Bruce

...met in Wichita while Bruce was still in High School. It was during Jack's senior year and Bruce's junior year at ISU. They met at a social function, neither could remember which social function, there were many during a fella's senior year in High School. Jack was saying something rather uncomplimentary about the ISU Cyclones and Bruce happened to overhear. Bruce tried to set Jack straight, but Jack didn't much care for ISU and their athletic teams. Bruce explained that he was in his junior year at ISU and although he was born and raised in Kansas, ISU was a pretty good school. Bruce told Jack he planned to major in Journalism and ISU didn't offer what he wanted. Long story short, they more or less became friends.

When Jack got the offer to join the Agency the following year, he looked Bruce up and told him that he was going to Washington to work for the CIA. They lost track of each other after that and it wasn't until Bruce went to work for FOX News that they hooked up again. Just on a whim, Bruce called the CIA's published number and asked for Jack Casey. Jack was out, but Bruce was forwarded to Jack's voice mail so he left a message and his number. The following day, when Jack was back in the office, he returned Bruce's call. They played phone tag for several days and then ended up sitting in a DC bar nursing beers and catching up. By this time Jack and Cindy were married but Jack hadn't moved to DHS. Jack's move to DHS actually came in March of 2003 after Congress created the Cabinet level post. Merging 22 government agencies primarily created DHS.

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The USSS is actually part of the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security was established with the passage of (Public Law 107-296) which in part, transferred the United States Secret Service from the Department of the Treasury, to the new department effective March 1, 2003. So you see it wasn't quite the stretch one might have thought it was to make Jack and Bruce temporary members of the White House Detail of the USSS.

The mission of the USSS had changed with the passage of the USA Patriot Act. The USA Patriot Act (Public Law 107-56) increases the Secret Service's role in investigating fraud and related activity in connections with computers. In addition it authorizes the Director of the Secret Service to establish nationwide electronic crimes taskforces to assist the law enforcement, private sector and academia in detecting and suppressing computer-based crime; increases the statutory penalties for the manufacturing, possession, dealing and passing of counterfeit US or foreign obligations; and allows enforcement action to be taken to protect our financial payment systems while combating transnational financial crimes directed by terrorists or other criminals.

Making Jack a member of the USSS had been as easy as issuing him a new ID. Employees of the CIA are fairly thoroughly vetted on a regular basis. The ID didn't have an expiration date either, but Jack assumed it was a clerical error. The USSS makes very

few, almost no, clerical errors. Bruce's ID did have an expiration date, for 1 year in the future. Remember, this was a 4-week assignment. Never mind what the laws says, the US Government pretty much does what it wants to do, or at least they try. Nobody complained when Jack and Bruce borrowed the Army Battalion and had them take over running the FEMA camp in Pueblo, Colorado.

The Army was detaining the camp administration at Fort Carson pending the outcome of Jack and Bruce's inquiry. Once they got that guy out of the Pueblo camp and set up at the camp in Salina, he started singing like a bird. Things weren't as they appeared to be in Pueblo. For one thing, the food was delivered in one set of trucks and later a second set of trucks would show up and haul part of it away. The bell tolled once... For another thing, the guards were contractors, not federal employees, and this particular group of guards, on several occasions, had singled out a woman for questioning and that was the last anyone had ever seen of the woman. The bell tolled twice... Finally, the guards were rather insistent on everyone toeing a narrow line and the slightest mis-step got a person roughed up. The bell tolled a third and final time... Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee.

Jack called the Secretary and the camp administrators were tried and convicted in a secret trial and put in Leavenworth. That stuck Bruce as being very odd. The US had a justice system and as far as Bruce knew, it didn't include kangaroo courts or secret tribunals. By this time Bruce had more than enough material for his 3-part follow up article and he began to compose the story omitting, for the moment, any reference to what Jack and he were doing. Bruce was keeping a second set of notes documenting the current secret mission.

"That's one down and many more to go," Jack observed.

"I can't say that I'm totally happy with the way it turned out, Jack."

"What do you mean, we got the bad guys out and the camp is operating the way it was intended?"

"Right and what happened to the bad guys, Jack? I'll tell you what happened to them; they sitting in Leavenworth convicted by some secret tribunal for only God knows what and only God knows for how long. That isn't the American system."

"Tough times call for tough measures Bruce."

"I don't want to hear any more clichés, Jack. Everyone, even an Al Capone is entitled to his day in court."

"I can't argue with that, buddy. The USA Patriot Act provided for a secret court."

"Right, to issue secret search warrants, not to conduct secret trials."

“What’s the difference? They’re off the street and won’t hurt anyone else.”

“If I have to explain it to you, I doubt you’d understand.”

“Oh, I understand Bruce, and you’re right. That’s why when you end blowing the whistle on this whole charade; I’ll back you up 100%. But, in the meantime, let’s clean up the camps first. I’m from Kansas, I only WORK in Washington.”

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Jack had concluded that his ID not having an expiration date could only mean that someone was setting him up. He wasn’t about to be anybody’s fall guy. The fact that Bruce’s ID card was good for a year and the mission was supposed to be over in a month was only further proof, to him, of his suspicions. ID cards were a security matter and when it came to security the USSS didn’t make errors. The operative term here was anal-retentive. Neither was he going out without a few souvenirs. That was when somebody broke into his Hummer and stole his and Bruce’s HK91A3s, and the suppressors, all of which were immediately replaced. Jack was operating on the other guy’s dime, but he wanted a quarter. Maybe the MP5-N was only a 9mm and the USSS used a special 10mm version, but at full auto, it didn’t make much difference. Somehow he had to figure out how to get 4 of those and keep the M16A3s the girls were using.

Some wanted to know what the difference was between an M16A3 and an M16A4. I explained in a previous story, but here it is again. To quote Global Security: “The M16A3, which replaced the M16A2 in 1994, is basically an M16A2 with full-automatic capability and optional M4A1-style Rail Interface System (RIS). The M16A3 and the M16A4 are identical to the M16A2, but both have the modular upper receiver. The M16A3 is capable of fully automatic fire, like the M16A1, while the M16A4 uses the M16A2s three-round burst mechanism. Additionally, several types of optical sights have been developed for the modular upper. The M16A4 is identical to the M16A3, but can fire single shots or 3-round bursts (no full auto). The M16A4 Rifle is a standard M16A2 Rifle with a flat top upper receiver and detachable carrying handle. The flat top upper receiver has an integral rail that will be utilized (when the carrying handle is removed) to mount optical devices to the weapon. The M16A4 Rifle in combination with the M5 Rail Adapter forms the Modular Weapon System (rifle version), which provides soldiers the flexibility to configure their weapons with those accessories required to fulfill an assigned mission. There are no differences between the internal dimensions of the M16A2 Rifle and the M16A4 Rifle.”

“The MP5-N fires from a closed and locked bolt in either the automatic or semiautomatic modes. This gun is recoil operated and has a unique delayed roller locked bolt system, a retractable butt stock, a removable suppressor, and illuminating flashlight integral to the forward hand guard. The flashlight is operated by a pressure switch custom fitted to the pistol grip. This is the same basic weapon used by the FBI’s Hostage Rescue Team and other world-class counter-terrorist organizations. The present inventory includes both suppressed and non-suppressed versions of the MP5. The basic configuration of

this weapon makes for an ideal size, weight, and capable (accuracy, lethality, reliability, etc.) close quarters battle weapon system. This weapon is manufactured by Heckler and Koch and is presently fielded to Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance Companies and Marine Security Force Battalions. It is currently considered the main weapon in the close-quarters battle (CQB) environment.”

The MP5-N's were more readily available and generally more easily replaced than the special 10mm model used by the USSS, just as soon as Jack arranged their theft. The MP5/10 SMG is a product-improved variation of the world-famous MP5 9mm submachine gun. Designed especially for the American Law Enforcement (FBI) user, the MP5/10 is chambered for the potent 10mm Auto cartridge. Operation and functioning principles of the MP5/10 are identical to that of the 9mm MP5.

Numerous user inspired improvements have been incorporated into the design. A new bolt catch holds the bolt group rearward after the magazine is empty. A newly designed translucent (see-through) synthetic magazine allows the user to see the immediate status of the rounds remaining in the magazine. These magazines snap together without the need of an accessory clamp, providing the operator with sixty rounds of available firepower right on the weapon. Using a specially developed high strength polymer, these are magazines 30% lighter and impervious to corrosion.

The MP5/10 will come standard with HK's ambidextrous trigger group providing for single, 3-round burst and sustained (full automatic) fire modes. Optional trigger groups, including any combination of the above modes of fire, will also be available. The safety-selector switch is easily accessible by right or left-handed operators and does not require operators to change their firing grip to take the weapon off “safe”.

A high degree of interchangeability of parts, accessories, stocks and slings exist between the MP5/10 and the 9mm MP5. For low light/night use, HK's own Beta (tritium) self-luminous front and rear sights are available as an option. Replacing the standard forearm with an HK Tactical Forearm Light provides the user with an integral 15,000-candle power flashlight.

The MP5/10 is designed to meet the ever-increasing call by US Law Enforcement for a compact, accurate and reliable submachine gun chambered for a cartridge with increased terminal effects on target. The 10mm Auto cartridge provides up to twice the muzzle energy of the standard 9mm parabellum NATO cartridge, and still is easily controllable due to the unique roller-locked bolt system employed throughout the HK line of weapons. This perfect combination of weapon and cartridge puts the firepower, penetration and hard hitting potential of a .45 ACP Thompson SMG into a package identical in size and weight to the 9mm MP5.

On the other hand, why the hell not? When they had their MP5-Ns stolen, they'd had to have them replaced with the MP5/10 with optional suppressors. Both of the MP5-Ns were signed out to Jack and if Jack could sign out two, Bruce sort of figured he could sign out two, too. The replacement HK91A3s were the HK G3KA4 rifles with a selective

fire, 600-round cyclic rate and the shorter barrel. Nice. Very nice! Cheaper Than Dirt sold the: Mag H&K .308 G3 Aluminum 20-Rd Made in Germany, used Very Good Condition for \$1.97 each.

If they did blow the whistle on the government, they would lose their jobs anyway so a few souvenirs were a good thing. First they had to clean up the camps and then they had to save the country from the duplicity of the Oval Office and DHS, all without getting killed in the process.

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They stopped in Salina and stored their HK91A3s at Bruce's parents' home. Then the two couples were off to bigger and better things. A check of the camp that DHS sent them to revealed nothing out of the ordinary. They were supposed to find a problem at that camp, so that meant to Jack and Bruce that DHS was making sure that they didn't find any other problems. Now mind you, all of this is occurring in August/September of 2005. The air was still filled with volcanic ash and it was starting to get cold. Jack requested a list of all of the camps where problems were suspected and they went to the camps that weren't on the list. It got to the point that they didn't even have to ask any questions; it only took a look into the eyes of the residents to tell the story.

The moment they saw that look, they moved to the nearest Army post and used the secret EO to enlist the support of the Commanding Officer. Bruce submitted his 3-part piece to the Times and he was now a free agent to continue what they were doing. Of course by this time Washington was getting antsy and they were instructed that the next camp they visited was to be from the list of troubled camps. The Agency had placed Cindy on paid administrative leave for the duration of the assignment. No doubt because the DCI was getting a kick out of Jack, and by extension Cindy, embarrassing his counterpart at the DHS and the President.

After cleaning up the second camp they had received that order about only visiting the camps on the list, so they obeyed, visited with a few people and immediately went to another camp not on the list. Same sad story and, finding the same thing at 3 out of 5 camps screamed conspiracy at the highest level. After they cleaned up the third camp, they were ordered back to Washington to explain why they hadn't restricted their activities to only visiting the camps on the list. Regrettably, the HMWWV was involved in an accident somewhere in Arkansas totally destroying the vehicle before it burst into flames. They lost everything including 4 MP5/10 submachine guns with optional suppressors, 2 HK G3KA4 and their suppressors, 2 M16A3 rifles and the M-240B machine gun. A burst tire had caused Jack to lose control and Cindy and he only narrowly escaped. ...Arizona and I'll throw the Golden Gate in free. Very nice souvenirs!

Jack was terminated for exceeding his charter. Bruce and Jack wrote up the whole dirty story and Jack sold it to the Washington Post for \$50,000, along with copies of the tapes they'd made. Jack went to a buddy in Virginia and got the 4 of them issued official State of Virginia CCWs, which were nearly as good as the federal CCWs. The DCI took

Cindy off paid administrative leave and she was back on the Middle East desk. He also offered Jack his old job back. (I've got several more chapters to go!)

Jack declined at first but then the Washington Times offered Bruce a fulltime job. Jack had hoped that Bruce and he could open their own security firm, but Bruce was still a reporter and \$100 grand plus per year, plus expenses, was nothing to sneeze at. What the hell, Jack took back his old job at the Agency on the China Desk. Mona was accepted into a Graduate school.

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About six committees in the House and the Senate began investigations. The easiest part of Jack and Bruce's story to confirm was what had happened to the administration of the three camps the guys had busted. Congressional investigators somehow managed to move faster than either the Oval Office or DHS and several of the men in prison were very willing to tell their stories. Bush told the Secretary of DHS that it didn't appear that he had any choice except to call for his resignation. The Secretary fell on his sword just as George Tenet had done. The only difference being when he was called before a Congressional Committee to account for his behavior, he pulled a John Dean, and could not tell a lie and didn't even try.

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Jack tracked down the contractor who had made all of the improvements to Cindy and his home. The contractor revealed that he'd done 4 homes in the same neighborhood and all were identically equipped. One of the homes was on the market and half of its backyard butted up against Jack and Cindy's backyard. Bruce and Mona made an offer on the home. They had one hell of a down payment, \$75,000. The home was just another very modest three bedroom home that had a basement and, of all things, a bomb shelter in the backyard. Well, they were identical, weren't they?

"From what I can see, buddy both of these homes were probably part of the same housing tract. The only difference is that yours is a mirror image of ours."

"You know, Jack if we ran a tunnel from my basement to your basement and connected that tunnel to both shelters we have the ultimate setup. It occurs to me that before this fiasco is over, some people might come gunning for us."

"Do you have the money to afford half the cost of the tunnel?"

"We only put \$75k down on the house and Mona and I only spent about \$15k on furnishings. That still leaves us the better part of \$30 grand. Why don't you talk to the contractor you located and see about his building the tunnel?"

"I can do that, maybe it won't cost very much."

“Good because we need to buy some emergency supplies and I want to make sure we have more than enough money left on hand for Mona to finish Grad School.”

“I talked to Barney the other day and told him that Mona and you got married.”

“What did he have to say for himself?”

“He said he was contemplating suicide, you know Barney. I mentioned to him that we had the HK G3KA4s. He mentioned back that he has 2 brand new HK G3A4s if we’d like to trade our old HK91A3s. He only wants \$250 apiece for the swap and that includes moving the suppressors. He also had some extended, threaded barrels for the girls’ Hi-Powers and suppressors if we want them.”

“I don’t know if I want to do that, the G3KA4s have that short barrel. I’d rather trade the HK G3KA4s for HK G3A4s and the suppressors if that’s what you’re going to do. About the only thing we lack is a couple of Ruger Mk IIs with integral suppressors.”

“I know, that why I told him to bring 2, just in case.”

“Do you think they’ll come after us for the story I sold to the Post?”

“Let’s just say that I wouldn’t fall down from shock if they did. We broke a cardinal rule when we kissed and told.”

“We did the right thing, Jack and they can’t really trace it back to us. We used a pseudonym for the author’s name. They can guess, but they’ll never prove anything.”

“When are you going to grow up, buddy? These guys don’t play by the rules of polite society. They only require a suspicion as proof. It won’t be a direct attack; it will be a very convenient auto accident, a mugging or a drive by shooting.”

“I can’t believe that the head of the White House Detail would ever condone something like that.”

“He wouldn’t. That’s why he won’t be told anything about it. You do know about the shadow government, right?”

“Only what I’ve heard on TV or read in the papers.”

“Well, you still have a lot to learn. Maybe Cindy and I had better begin holding classes for Mona and you.”

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Jack was talking about:

It is becoming increasingly apparent to American citizens that government is no longer being conducted in accordance with the US Constitution, or, within states, according to state constitutions. While people have recognized for more than 150 years that the rich and powerful are often corrupt individual officials, or exert undue influence to get legislation passed that favors their interests, most Americans still cling to the naïve belief that such corruption is exceptional, and that most of the institutions of society, the courts, the press, and law enforcement agencies, still largely comply with the Constitution and the law in important matters. They expect that these corrupting forces are disunited and in competition with one another, so that they tend to balance one another.

Mounting evidence makes it clear that the situation is far worse than most people think, that during the last several decades the US Constitution has been effectively overthrown, and that it is now observed only as a façade to deceive and placate the masses. What has replaced it is what many call the Shadow Government. It still, for the most part, operates in secret, because its control is not secure. The exposure of this regime and its operations must now become a primary duty of citizens who still believe in the Rule of Law and in the freedoms which this country is supposed to represent.

It is difficult to identify a single date or event that marks the overthrow, but we can identify some critical steps.

The first was the Dick Act of 1903, which repealed the Militia Act of 1792 and tried to relegate the Constitutional Militia to the National Guard, under control of what is now the US Defense Department. The second was the Federal Reserve Act, which established a central bank only nominally under the control of the government.

Further erosion of constitutional governance was motivated by several challenges, which the powerful felt required them to put aside their differences and unite. The first was the Great Depression of 1933-1941. The second was World War II and the threat from fascism, followed by the Cold War and the threat from Soviet imperialism and from communism.

The third defies credibility, but cannot be avoided. UFOs and aliens. Despite the lack of hard evidence accessible to ordinary citizens, there is enough testimonial evidence to compel a reasonable person to conclude three things: UFOs exist, they are intelligently directed, and they are not ours. Even if that were all that the government knew about them, minds already paranoid from the Cold War could hardly help but perceive such things as a significant potential threat, one that required secrecy, preparation, and disregard for provisions of a Constitution that were inconvenient. There are, however, enough leaks from government officials to indicate that the government knows a great deal about them that it is concealing from the public.

The fourth is the eco-crisis, which combines both the ecological and economic crises. Many leaders have recognized for a long time that we are headed for disaster, not a kind of cyclical downturn like the Great Depression, but an irreversible decline brought about by a combination of resource depletion, environmental degradation, and over-

population, playing out in an anarchic international system of disparate nation- states, national currencies, national banks, and multinational corporations, exacerbated by traditional tribal rivalries, class conflict, and different languages and religions.

But this apparatus did not seem to function as an effective Shadow Government, able to make and enforce decisions apart from the official government, until it came together to assassinate President John F. Kennedy. That was the watershed event. After that, too many people had too much to hide to allow the situation to return to governance as usual.

The myth is that World War II ended with the defeat of fascism, but what really happened is that fascism got a grip on those fighting it, and is becoming increasingly pervasive and powerful. As it grows, it will induce a reaction, the outcome of which will be a final confrontation. We can all hope that the confrontation will not be a bloody one, and that it will be resolved while we still have time to solve our other pressing problems.

Conversely, Bruce thought Jack was talking about:

The Washington Post revealed the creation of a federal “shadow government” in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks – some 100 senior civilian managers who live and work in fortified bunkers in the event of a catastrophic event in Washington.

Some are alarmed by this development. It may surprise readers of this column to learn I am not.

There is a threat. It is considerable. The possibility of a nuclear attack, a biological attack or a chemical attack on Washington, New York or some other US city is real. We should all recognize that after September 11. There are bad guys in this world. They are out to get us. They have real resources and real capabilities.

What bothers me is not what the government is doing to prepare for the worst. What bothers me is what the government is not doing to prepare for the worst.

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Do you remember what a latent ambiguity is? Each of the two men had a different understanding about what a shadow government was. The same name for two opposing groups; or, were they opposing groups? Talk about a conspiracy theory. *A good conspiracy is un-provable. I mean, if you can prove it, it means they screwed up somewhere along the line*, according to Mel Gibson.

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 8 – A Chink in Their Armor

I'm not talking about the people from China that make campaign contributions... There was nothing to directly link the White House to the developing story about the abuses and corruption in the FEMA camps. While the Secretary of the DHS told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help him God, there wasn't much to tell. Maybe one of George's favorite movies was *A Clear and Present Danger*? Movies can teach people a lot of things about how to handle situations that may arise. One thing that a person doesn't do is issue *Get Out of Jail Free Cards*. Another is not leaving a paper trail. The last person to get involved in any wrongdoing is the Chief of Staff or the National Security Advisor. These people are too closely identified with the President and if they go down...

Congress should have been worried about the worst disaster in the history of the United States. Instead, they were consumed with bringing down the White House. This was 2005 and Bush hadn't served a full year of his second term. John Kerry and Teddy Kennedy had the answer. All of the corruption was because too many people in America had assault rifles and Bush was trying to pack the federal courts with conservatives. Huh?

The first of October 2005 saw the tunnel finished, covered over and Bruce and Mona had enough survival supplies for a year or more. Barney kissed the bride, several times. Cindy had decided that she needed to have that baby before she got too old and both she and Mona were pregnant. Thank God the Internet was still up. You'd be surprised what you can buy on the Internet, like linked 7.62x51mm ammo. It's surplus, but it still shoots just fine, they checked it out. You can't buy grenades for the M203s on the M16A3 rifles, but there was always Barney. Did you notice how Barney seemed to deal in hard to get items? If it was legal, he probably didn't have it; otherwise, how many did you want?

Since they had 2 of the M16A3/M203s, they figured that 72 grenades, 36 apiece, were probably enough. They weren't looking to start a war, only defend themselves. The first move on the part of whoever came against Mona. Mona had her new concealment purse and her Browning Hi-Power plus 7 times 15 rounds of ammo and a suppressor available. She also had a cell phone and when a chip of wood flew off a tree, she ducked, covered, pulled her weapon and called Bruce for help. Bruce got Jack and Cindy and they took the suppressed MP5/10-Ns and their suppressed pistols. By the time they arrived at the school, whoever had taken a shot at Mona was long gone.

None of them were looking forward to a confrontation that would result in shots being fired. They had all fired their weapons, thousands of times, but had never shot another human being before. (Neither have I) The next day, they went shopping and bought level IIIA bullet-proof clothing. Not the standard stuff; they bought the special stuff that looks like ordinary clothing. Jack went to see the Assistant Director of Intelligence and explained what was happening. All he wanted was permission for Cindy and him to car-

ry their weapons into the buildings at Langley. The ADI told Jack he'd check on it and not to carry the weapons until he gave Jack permission.

The ADI ran it by the DI who ran it by the DCI. The DCI took all of 10 seconds to give permission. And then he requested that Jack and Cindy appear in his office just before lunch and have lunch with him. CIA analysts don't decline lunch requests from the DCI, mostly because they never get them. Very seldom does a CIA analyst brief the President of the US, like Jack Ryan did in the movies. Hell, they don't even travel in the same circles as the DCI, let alone GWB.

"Someone tried to take Mona Jenkins out?" the DCI observed. "This is the first that I've heard of it."

"She wasn't without protection, Mr. Director. I got the 4 of us official State of Virginia CCW's, by pulling a few strings with an old friend. When it went down, she reacted immediately, went to cover and called Bruce on her cell phone. By the time we showed up, whoever was behind it was gone."

"First off, I'll make arrangements for the 4 of you to have federal CCWs. You've had them before, right?"

"Yes sir. We had them when we did that survey of abuses at the FEMA Camps."

"Nice article Bruce wrote up for the Washington Post. Maybe you guys used a pseudonym, but his writing style was unmistakable. What is your situation at home? Did you get the tunnel finished?"

"I suppose you know what we had for breakfast, too?"

"I'm only having a couple of people keep a loose watch over your homes. Maybe I should tighten security a little."

"Mona and Cindy are expecting and anything that you can do to keep them a little safer would be appreciated."

"I didn't know that. Congratulations. This isn't like *The Firm* where we have your houses wired for sound and video, you know."

"In *Patriot Games*, Jack Ryan had his house wired up and connected to the Agency," Jack pointed out.

"I didn't say we couldn't do it, only that we hadn't."

"I wouldn't mind having an alarm in our home connected directly to the Agency. I can't imagine that Bruce would object either."

“You do know that our Charter prevents us from operating on US soil, don’t you?”

“It’s never stopped the Agency before, why should it now?” Cindy asked.

“I’ll take care of it and have alarms installed. Are you covered on weapons, in case of more trouble?”

“You heard that the HMWWV we were driving crashed, right?”

“Blown tire? Crashed? Caught fire? I heard.”

“The DHS and the USSS had to write off a lot of weapons. 4 MP5/10-Ns, 2 HK G2KA4s, and so forth. We’re very well covered, thank you.”

“Thanks for joining me for lunch. It has been very enlightening.”

“Thank You, Mr. Director. I always wanted to see your office,” Jack replied.

“And?”

“Ehhh...”

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When they got home that evening, their house was locked up the same as always. However, there were several new alarm pads, one in every room, including the johns. Slick. There were circles within circles within circles. Working our way down, there was the war in Iraq and American troops occupying the former Saudi Arabia. At home, the US was recovering from a major terrorist attack. They finally had satellite pictures of the new calderas and they were substantial. Fortunately the delay in the calderas erupting had allowed most of the people in the vicinity to escape. Only to end up in camps, some good and some not so good... The work that Jack and Bruce had done had forced the administration to clean up the camps and the Army was lending a hand with that. It was only 4 months into this disaster but it was a multiple disaster in the sense that the President’s precautionary measure of shutting down the nuclear reactors had far reaching effects. The utilities had to shut down the entire grid and lightning from the ash clouds took out a lot of power lines. They were slow bringing the reactors back on line, but that didn’t matter too much because they had to repair power lines.

The lights came back on October 31st. As many deaths were attributed to the power outage as to the eruptions. The western United States was blanketed with ash. It reached all of the way east to Ohio. New Yorkers call Ohio the Midwest and Iowa the West. I wonder if they call California the Far East? (I was in NYC in ‘73, for a lifetime – 3 days) The Army Corps of Engineers was busy working with the state highway departments to clear the remainder of the roads.

The next circle was what was happening to our 4 friends. Somebody somewhere wasn't very happy about Jack and Bruce exposing the truth about the FEMA Camps. How would killing these 4 people now make any difference? The Washington Post milked the story for all it was worth. Then the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune and the LA Times expressed their opinions. CNN was saying that Bush should resign and Geraldo claimed he had the real story and would reveal it on a 2-hour special. Life was back to normal, sort of. Winter had come very early and it was, as expected, very cold. NOAA was suggesting that it would take a minimum of 3 years for the air to completely clear and until it did, the US and most of the Northern Hemisphere was in for extremely cold weather and a greatly reduced growing season.

The US could no longer support the war in Iraq and the troops were pulled from Iraq to Saudi Arabia, now called Arabia, to protect America's new oil supply. The Russian's objected to the United States forward basing the B-2's and B-52's in the Middle East. However, the Russians couldn't really do much about it because it was an accomplished fact and they were having plenty of terrorist problems of their own. The only people really having any fun at all were a bunch of Muslim's down in México. And even they were having trouble because their arms were sore from patting themselves on the back.

If you think the US had enemies before, consider the fact that we weren't importing any oil from anyone except our new Territory, Arabia. We'd come off of DEFCON 2 and were down to DEFCON 3. The Threat Level had been reduced but only from Red to Orange. At DEFCON 3, most of the SSBNs and SSGNs in service were at sea, as were most of the carrier battle groups. We were 80% deployed and the ships only returned to port long enough to replenish and change crews. The hands on the clock were now at 3 minutes to midnight, a worsening of 4 seconds to midnight. Factories were churning out F-22 Raptors at twice the normal pace. The DOD let a second contract for more Raptors, this time using the money from Arabian oil to pay for them. They wanted to boost the fleet to the original 648 Raptors. They were also using the Arabian money for a contract to increase production of the F/A-18 Super Hornets. The Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35, was still in testing.

On 29 December 2003 the US Navy awarded Boeing a multiyear procurement contract valued at \$8.6 billion for the production of an additional 210 F/A-18 Super Hornets. Under the terms of the multiyear contract, the Navy would purchase 42 aircraft in each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2009. The agreement provided the Navy with the flexibility to increase the quantity of aircraft on order by as many as six aircraft per year. Deliveries for aircraft purchased in the second multiyear will begin in fiscal year 2007. The DOD told the manufacturers to increase production of the fighters to double what they had been scheduled to deliver. Money was no longer an object. If they could have rushed the production of the G.H.W. Bush, the final Nimitz class carrier, I'm sure they would have. The same could probably be said for the Virginia class submarines.

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Even with the former director of DHS flapping his yap to Congress, there was no link to the White House, and George was off the hook for that escapade. Congress turned its attention to the bombing of Saudi Arabia. The eruption of the calderas was playing third fiddle to politics. It was the old, if the left one don't get you, maybe the right one will routine. Congress was being Congress and going nowhere, at Mach 3. The United Nations censured the United States for bombing Saudi Arabia. Condi Rice tried to reason with them and she was getting nowhere, at Mach 3. North Korea tested a nuclear weapon and China washed its hands of the 6-nation talks. Surprised?

When a second attempt was made on Mona, she found out that she had a Guardian Angel. The DCI had increased security; he just didn't talk about it. The attackers got away and Bruce begged Mona to quit college at the end of the semester and not return until after the baby was born. Mona was frightened and she agreed. The semester was scheduled to end in January of 2006. Jack sent a one-word message to the DCI that said, "Thanks." He received back a message: "Don't mention it – to anyone." Jack showed the reply to Bruce.

"I never thought I'd see the day when I was happy that the CIA was violating their Charter," Bruce grinned.

"They aren't. They can't. Just forget you read the message, ok?"

"They aren't too happy at the Times about one of their reporters carrying 24/7."

"They'll just have to get over it, won't they? I figured they'd make a single try, but two was more than I expected. I also thought that whoever they are would attack our homes, not us as individuals. Of the 4 of us, Mona was the least involved."

"True, but of the 4 of us, she gives every appearance of being the most vulnerable."

"Maybe you could hire Kevin Costner to guard her body."

"Hell, Barney would guard her body for free, he might even pay me. No, I don't think so. School will be out in a couple of months and she's staying home until after the baby comes. When is Cindy going to take maternity leave?"

"She could work right up until before the baby comes, but if Mona is going to be home, I'll talk to her about taking off when Mona finishes the semester. I have the impression that the DCI might place her on TDY, at home, keeping an eye on Mona. That would allow him to cut the sizes of the teams he is using."

"How much longer is this crap going to go on? Are we going to be looking over our shoulders for the rest of our lives?"

"I shouldn't think so. I suspect that Operations and Intelligence are working together, for a change, to put a stop to this. I'm reasonably certain they will succeed and someday we'll be told that the coast is clear."

"The American public has the general impression that the Agency is very inept."

"We want the American public to believe that. We did get sloppy for a while, mostly due to funding cuts, but that's all changed. If the American public believes we're inept and sloppy, so do the other countries. At the height of the Cold War the Agency was running some very successful operations. There really was a *Cardinal of the Kremlin*; Clancy wasn't entirely making it up. He didn't know that, but he was more right than wrong."

"What about DeMille and his *Charm School*? Fact or fiction?"

"Well, we can't be totally sure, but probably more fact than DeMille realized. I've always been on the China desk, so I don't really know. You do know that the guys who planted the nukes ended up in Puerto Vallarta, right?"

"I didn't even know that we knew who planted the nukes."

"It's been 4 months and it wasn't like they were really hiding. We heard about a group of Muslims, Saudis actually, living it up in México and checked into it. When we got to back tracking their movements, we placed them in California and Wyoming about a week before the bombs went off and some of the others in North Platte, Nebraska. Do you still think the CIA is inept?"

"What's going to happen to them?"

"There isn't any Saudi Arabia anymore so I'd speculate that they simply be killed in place."

"Wouldn't the government get more mileage out of capturing and trying them?"

"And prove what? I think that killing them and leaving the bodies lay without any semblance of an explanation will send a bigger message to other would be terrorists."

"Maybe, but they all want to die for the Jihad, don't they?"

"Right, sacrificing your life detonating a bomb in a Jihad gets you a ticket straight to Paradise. Getting shot down in the street like a dog doesn't, no matter what you did before. Only a few people will have any idea what these people did. I'd further speculate that it will be made to look like a drug deal gone wrong. What glory is there in that?"

"Congress announced that they're going to probe the bombing of Saudi Arabia."

“That won’t get very far. It was Congressional Leaders that pressured Bush into dropping the bombs.”

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TOKYO – Friction between Japan and China over the events of World War II has escalated to a level that threatens to destabilize the region, according to scholars who warn that hostilities could result unless calmer heads prevail. “Leaders are playing to nationalism, because that’s all they have as glue,” said Andrew Horvat, visiting fellow at Tokyo Keizai University.

In China, President Hu Jintao and other leaders struggle to maintain the legitimacy of the Communist Party. In Japan, Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi presides over a flagging economy. The latest in a series of tit-for-tat exchanges has Japan fuming over a high-profile snub by China early last week. Just hours before Mr. Koizumi was to meet Chinese Vice Prime Minister Wu Yi in Tokyo – a meeting requested by China – Beijing canceled.

◦

Shandong – The strengthening China-South Korea ties are being driven by China’s dramatic rise, which has rippled throughout Asia. Even as South Koreans draw closer to their giant neighbor, Japanese investors are considering pulling back from China amid increasing friction between the two nations.

The Japanese must have forgotten that the Chinese have over 400 nuclear weapons.

◦

French voters have rejected adopting the EU Constitution, according the exit polls. Should the exit polls be confirmed, the result would be a blow to the government of President Jacques Chirac, who led the yes camp. The charter lays out the future path of the 25-member organization on key issues including common foreign policy.

◦

A US Marine was killed Saturday when the vehicle in which he was riding was struck by a roadside bomb in western Iraq, the US military said. The death brought the number of US troops killed in the Iraq war to 1,656, according to US military reports. The Marine was assigned to 2nd Force Service Support Group (Forward), 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), the military said.

◦

I’m not renaming the story to *Conspiracy Theory* even though it might contain a few conspiracies. A conspiracy is where two or more individuals act in concert in a secret

agreement to do an unlawful or wrongful act or to use such means to accomplish a lawful end. A conspiracy is difficult to prove. Still it beats not prosecuting a person for a crime you know they committed but have no evidence of. Conspiracies are made punishable because of the increased danger involved in-group offenses. Examples of group offenses, which are not conspiracies include: adultery, bigamy, incest, dueling, receiving stolen goods, prohibited sale of contraband and bribery, all of which require two or more people and are illegal.

The killing of the terrorists in Puerto Vallarta didn't even merit a mention on American TV. It got a single, small paragraph in the Washington Times, but only because Bruce saw the item on the wire and insisted that it was published. No other newspaper picked it up. Al Jazeera had a lot to say on the death of the Muslims in México. It called the dead men martyrs and heroes but didn't come right out and say what they did to earn that status. Neither did they mention the apparent drug deal gone wrong. Cindy thought that most peculiar, usually Al Jazeera (Headquartered on Doha, Qatar) wasn't hesitant to expound at length about anything anti-American. Maybe the bombers in Saudi Arabia, er, Arabia, were having an effect, or was it the willingness of GWB to drop neutron bombs that frightened people? Very few people knew the real story about why GWB had bombed the Saudis, there was a news blackout on the subject until January 20, 2009.

o

Is the third time really a charm? It depends. If you're the conspirators who missed for a third time, it isn't. If you were the person who was missed for the third time, it was. This time it got nasty. A van pulled up in front of Bruce and Mona's home and the side door opened. Two men got out and began to spray the house with automatic weapons fire. The ladies were in the basement. They hit the silent alarm and took the tunnel to Bruce and Mona's shelter. The guys who weren't there killed the gunmen. A short while later, another van pulled up and cleaned up the mess. A few hours after everything started, there weren't even any bullet holes in the house because they had been patched and painted over. The DCI let Jack know that there'd been a problem but that it was handled and the wives were ok. It sure would be nice if the CIA had a cleanup squad. But apparently the event was a non-event that never happened, so what was there to clean up? It had happened on a Saturday and Jack and Bruce were putting in a little extra time on their jobs.

The conspirators got worried because up until now, they weren't certain that the Agency was involved. When an event becomes a non-event in a matter of hours, it indicated that the CIA had used a cleanup squad. On the other side of the coin, the Agency was perplexed. They were readily able to identify the assassins, but they had all been dead for years, according to their military records.

o

"Are the two of you ok?"

“We were in the basement when the shooting started. We hit the alarm and went to the shelter. They got the shooters, you know.”

“Dead men can’t talk.”

“But they’ll be able to identify them, won’t they?”

“Probably, but that won’t tell us who they were working for.”

“What about the vehicle?”

“That was probably stolen just for this attack. Attacking the house as they did was amateurish, but these guys weren’t amateurs. The only conclusion I can draw is that they were ordered to do what they did. Maybe someone is panicking.”

“If they weren’t,” Bruce added, “They must be now.”

Ring...

“Jack Casey. Yes Sir, they’re fine. Do you really think that is necessary? Yes Sir, I’ll keep you informed.”

Don’t you just hate one-sided conversations?

“What was that about honey?”

“It was the DCI. He wanted to make sure that the two of you were ok. He put us on administrative leave at full pay. He wants me to let him know if anything out of the ordinary happens.”

“Geez, Jack! Out of the ordinary? This shooting was ordinary for cripes sake? The Times said I could switch to 4 10-hour days and starting Monday, that’s just exactly what I’m going to do.”

“This thing gives me a real feeling of helplessness, honey,” Cindy continued. “In all the years we’ve worked at the Agency, I can’t believe I’ve ever seen anything like this, except maybe in the movies.”

o

“What of the other weapons in America?”

“The storage locker was prepaid for 3 years.”

“It will be difficult to get into the country, they’ve sealed their borders.”

“Their borders are like a sieve.”

“There are no other major targets.”

“The Americans have over 100 nuclear reactors. The western part of their country is filled with volcanoes. They have several large dams. We only have 8 weapons left; there are more targets than we could ever destroy.”

“The others were found out and killed in the street.”

“It could not have been the Americans. They would have taken them back to their country and had a show trial. Very foolish people, these Americans.”

“We drove them from Iraq!”

“Fool. They left of their own accord. They have what they really wanted all of the time, our oil. We will wait until they have their country cleaned up and have lessened their security, just as they always do. Then, we will go to México and cross the border into Arizona. The weapons are in Phoenix.”

o

“The National Weather Service says that we’re going to get up to 24” of snow, maybe more. There is no way anyone is going to be able to move around in that stuff. I guess we’re safe for a couple of days, Jack.”

“They said that New York might get as much as 5’, Bruce. The Discovery Channel was talking about the abrupt climate change thing last night, did you catch the program?”

“We had on a Star Trek rerun. I’m very familiar with the scenario that Schwartz and Randall wrote. I studied it extensively when I was going to do the project with National Geographic.”

“They mentioned it, but the thing is those guys were talking about a gradual warming period. What we have is more like a nuclear or artificial winter.”

“That was the purpose of that study, Jack. Would an eruption of a Supervolcano put so much gas in the air that when the ash settled the earth would warm up at an extraordinary rate and melt the icecaps which would halt the Gulf Stream?”

“Discovery seemed to think that this artificial winter could last for 10 years. I think that would refreeze some of the water and we might be able to avoid the abrupt climate change Schwartz and Randall talked about.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 9 – Carl Sagan Was Right

Carl Sagan and others hypothesized that if the world were struck by a nuclear war, large volumes of smoke would enter the atmosphere and obscure the sun, causing a drop in the temperature of the planet. They called the effect, *Nuclear Winter*. If you've seen the specials on *Supervolcano* eruptions, the scientists have the same speculation, except that it would be ash that blocks the sun. There is ample evidence in modern times to support their contention. The study that Bruce was going to narrate for National Geographic was intended to take that issue one step further. Bruce was taking notes; maybe there was a book in this, down the road.

Mona and Bruce went to Salina for Thanksgiving and Jack and Cindy went to Wichita. Mona's parents were now back in their home in Aurora and the couple planned to Christmas with them while Jack and Cindy made the trip to New York State. They didn't go anywhere without looking like an Army unit loaded for bear and looking for a fight. The federal CCW's bailed them out a couple of times when a local wanted to know what they were doing with this or that weapon and the suppressors. Their federal CCW's listed all of their weapons and the suppressors were noted. Once, Jack had to dig out his Agency ID, but the odds were that Deputy local yokel didn't know what they looked like in the first place and he just wanted to see what a CIA ID looked like. I've known several people with the CIA in my lifetime and I've never seen one.

They had shadows everywhere they went, even if the sun wasn't shining. Just a couple of average looking guys who you'd never notice until you'd seen them one too many times. At first, Jack thought maybe they were the men who had tried to kill Mona or one of their group. He put in a call to check and the men were described to him and he was told to ignore them. Another time the same thing occurred when he was with Bruce and his call produced the same result. If there were anyone shadowing them, they had probably seen the vehicles too. There were no further attempts on any of the four.

Traveling cross-country was really a challenge during this winter. The snow was butt deep on a 9' Indian. Winter came early and NOAA said spring was coming late. Carl Sagan and the others had predicted a shortened growing season. Before the eruptions the population of the US was 300+ million and the eruptions hadn't really killed that many people so it was still 300+ million. That is until winter set in. There wasn't any shortage of fuel oil or petroleum products; the problem was making deliveries to the people who needed it. Fuel oil is still widely used in the Northeastern United States. Some years the problem is a shortage, high prices or both. During 2005 and into 2006, the problem was going to be distribution. Most people used several tank refills during the course of a normal winter. The price of fuel oil is roughly comparable with the price of diesel fuel or slightly cheaper.

There were two serious problems facing the country at the moment. The first was the inability to deliver fuel/food and the second was the inability of people to get to work to earn the money to buy the fuel/food. A revamped FEMA was forced to open new shelters to keep people warm and feed them. People were a little suspicious of FEMA after

the scandal about the camps that Jack and Bruce uncovered. Congress would have probably held more hearings had they been able to get to work. North of the Mason-Dixon Line the country was moving at a snail's pace. What is the Mason-Dixon Line?

In any discussion of the Mason-Dixon Line it is vital to distinguish between the two very different meanings of the term, as follows:

On the one hand, the original Mason-Dixon Line, as surveyed by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in 1763 to 1767, which is precisely defined and restricted to the Pennsylvania/Maryland border (which runs east-west) and that part of the Maryland/Delaware border which runs approximately north-south.

On the other hand, the later various colloquial meanings given to the term "Mason-Dixon Line", such as the border between the free states and the slave states in the first half of the eighteenth century, or the border between the Union states and the Confederate states during the American Civil War. These meanings are inconsistent with each other and with the course of the original Mason-Dixon Line as surveyed by Mason and Dixon. Opinions vary considerably as to the precise route of the Line under this meaning.

From 1820 onward the name Mason-Dixon Line came in general colloquial usage to mean the boundary between the free states and the slave states. It therefore included not only the original Mason-Dixon Line as surveyed by Mason and Dixon but also that part of the Pennsylvania/Ohio border from the southwestern corner of Pennsylvania to where the Ohio river crosses this border, the route of the Ohio River from that point to where it flows into the Mississippi, the eastern, northern and western borders of Missouri, and the 36 degrees 30 minutes parallel westward from the southwestern corner of Missouri (which extends across present-day Oklahoma to run along the southern edge of the Oklahoma panhandle and then across northern present-day New Mexico). However, according to some sources the route ran across part of Indiana and Illinois rather than along the river.

The 36 degrees 30 minutes parallel had been established by the Missouri Compromise of 1820 as the border between slave and free states in the Louisiana Purchase. Incidentally, the Virginia/North Carolina border, the Kentucky/Tennessee border and the Missouri/Arkansas border all run for most of their lengths within about 10 minutes of this parallel, although in the east this was never the border between the free states and the slave states. The Mason-Dixon Line is all that separates us damn Yankees from you Johnny Rebs. The American Civil War should have been a warning to the world that the US was a powerful industrial nation not to be dallied with.

o

Not to belittle the obvious but the assassins were more than a little incompetent and learned the meaning of 3 strikes and you're out. I said military records, but I didn't say what they did in the military. They weren't SEALS or members of any of the other Spe-

cial Forces. They were just 3 soldiers listed as KIA in the Gulf War in 1991. They were identified from their fingerprints and the identities confirmed from dental records. To the best of my knowledge the US only had 1 MIA from that war, a pilot who was shot down and supposedly captured. Bush had the American Forces looking all over for the guy in 2003. They didn't find him, if I recall correctly. Every other American soldier and airman killed in the Gulf War had been brought home and buried, hadn't they?

Interfering with the little FEMA camp operation had made the two men, and by extension their wives, some very powerful enemies, who at the moment, were lying low and regrouping. Think food for oil scandal only these were opportunists trying to capitalize on American misery. A few palms were greased and they provided the contract security forces and took over the camps using bribes or coercion. They'd also arranged for the use of a secret tribunal to put the people in prison and bury their little conspiracy. Which of the two Shadow Governments was behind this?

The Indian climbed on a stump and they canceled their plans to Christmas in Nebraska and New York. Bruce was down to working 2½ days a week, 2 16-hour days and 1 8-hour day; still 40 hours, divided differently. Nature was in charge of the employment situation in the Northern Hemisphere in the winter of 2005-2006. Local governments were in charge of snow removal in the cities and the states and the feds struggled to keep a few key Interstate highways open to permit the delivery of fuel oil and food. Is it always about oil and food?

FEMA opened several new facilities, not camps, in local High School Gymnasiums. People were being fed and there wasn't any scandal involved this time. It seemed as if they would just get over one storm and another would come in from the west and fill the streets with snow and grind everything to a halt again. Carl Sagan and his associates had been right, but they hadn't anticipated 5 1kt bombs being used to cause explosive super eruptions of the Yellowstone and Long Valley Calderas. The effects were much the same, maybe worse.

When it became apparent to the DCI that there weren't going to be any further attempts on Jack, Cindy, Bruce and Mona, he called off the troops. He set Jack and Cindy up with a dedicated, secure T-3 line and they were able to work from home, using direct access to the CIA mainframe. Cindy's skills were needed more than Jack's, something was brewing in the Middle East and this time it involved Syria and Iran. The Syrians had Saddam's WMDs – remember? Saddam and the Ayatollahs didn't get along too well. So, if something was brewing between Iran and Syria, it must be big.

Iran was building their breeder reactors and the first one had come online in late fall 2005. They hadn't gotten their enriched uranium fuel from Russia, too many strings. Some said the South Africans were involved, but that was only an unconfirmed rumor. They were producing plutonium as fast as possible – it takes a while. The reactors were underground, hidden from the view of the American satellites. Some said the French were involved supplying critical components the Iranians couldn't get from the Russians. That was very possible given the state of the French economy. You do know that nearly

1/3 of the Frenchmen and Russians are alcoholics, don't you? They have the highest rates of alcoholism in the world and are nearly tied, at 33%. In the US, the official rate of alcoholism is 10%, but in real life, it's closer to 20%.

Back up. A T-3 line is equal to 28 T-1 lines, minimum, and it didn't take much extra effort to take one of those T-1 lines and run it, via the tunnel, to Bruce and Mona's. Bruce arranged to work from home too. His Editor said this was an experiment and if he could maintain his work volume generating background on this extraordinary winter, he might get a raise. If he didn't, he could get in the unemployment line too. With T-1 access to the Internet, Bruce was generating volumes of work. In March 2006, he got the raise. Nice guy the DCI. Not! He was trying to get on Bruce's good side so he could recruit him to the Agency. They always had a place for historians on analyst's desks, too.

o

"I've been searching NOAA's forecasts and I think we're in for about 5 years of this," Bruce told Jack.

"Hey buddy, you're only seeing the records they put on the Internet for public consumption. Do you want me to talk to the DI and see if I can arrange access to the non-public records?"

"I wouldn't mind, but I really don't want to get in trouble. Did you ever know a reporter to turn down access to secret government information?"

"It could be arranged if you were a part-time employee of the Agency."

"Me, a spook? Bite your tongue."

"The Agency historically has used reporters for field work. Being a reporter is a perfect cover and reporters can ask direct questions that a spy never could. You'd keep you job with the Times and probably be a contractor paid on the basis of the value of any information you provided. There's a nominal retainer, of course."

"The next thing you're going to do is try and recruit Mona."

"The DCI said he had a job for her whenever she was ready to come to work."

"She wants to finish Grad School. And since when did you get so cozy with the DCI?"

"I'm not, but he invited me to lunch a second time and did happen to mention the reporter thing and having a position for Mona."

"What's going on Jack? Working at home; a T-3 line; and now, offers of jobs?"

“You seem to be pretty good ferreting out information on the Internet, Bruce. Look at how much information you generated without access to the non-public NOAA records. The information about the Shadow Government is all out on the Internet waiting for someone to discover it and put it together. The DCI implied that those were the people behind the attempts on Mona.”

“What do Dick Cheney and 100 highly placed government officials have to do with trying to kill us?”

“Not that Shadow Government, the real Shadow Government.”

“What are you talking about, the real Shadow Government?”

“I’d suggest that you take the job with the Agency and begin spending your spare time researching the Trilateral Commission and their parent organization, The Round Table.”

“Would I get access to the Agency mainframe?”

“Only employees of the Agency have access to the mainframe.”

“I don’t really like the idea of spying on my own country, you know.”

“You would be spying on the people who would be Kings.”

“And Mona can get a job, too?”

“That would be mandatory before the DCI would ever put in your own T-3 line.”

“I talk to her about it.”

“Working for the Agency has several perks and bennies the average person doesn’t really think about.”

“But Cindy and you are just analysts in the Intelligence Directorate, right?”

“Right,” Jack answered after he crossed his fingers.

“So basically you’re only suggesting that Mona and I become either full-time or part-time analysts, too.”

“Right,” Jack replied with his fingers still crossed.

“Childish? Maybe. But Jack could later argue that his fingers were crossed and he was only telling a little white lie for the sake of expediency. Being analysts in the Intelligence Directorate was about as perfect a cover as two people could get. They could even beat a lie detector by simply telling the truth, the partial truth, and omitting certain facts. You

didn't really think the DCI would get them federal CCW's on a whim, did you? The DCI is the US's head spook, and he's just naturally a little devious. The first civilian DCI was Allen Dulles, a big shot with the OSS during WW II. Allen Welsh Dulles was the younger brother of John Foster Dulles, Eisenhower's Secretary of State.

At Dulles' request, President Eisenhower demanded that Senator McCarthy discontinue issuing subpoenas against the CIA. McCarthy had initiated a series of investigations into potential communist subversion of the Agency. Although none of the investigations revealed any wrongdoing, the hearings were still potentially damaging, not only to the CIA's reputation, but to the security of sensitive information as well. During the time, Dulles was personally overseeing Operation Mockingbird, a program which influenced American media companies. I don't make all of this stuff up.

o

"I can't see myself working for the Agency, Bruce. All I ever wanted was to be a History Teacher."

"I don't want to be a spy either, Mona. But, analysts only evaluate information; they don't get involved in Operations."

"Do you have any idea how much being a spy pays?"

"Not really, but a T-3 line costs \$10,000 a month. That's almost as much as I make working for the Times. If that's the overhead, the job must pay fairly well."

Being an analyst pays well, but not THAT well. The real money in working for the Agency comes with being an Operations field employee with access to vast amounts of cash to do dirty little tricks. Jack and Cindy paid cash for their house did I mention that? I wonder where that money came from. What are the odds of a building contractor building 4 homes in the same neighborhood, all equipped with fancy survival shelters? I guess that depends upon who the building contractor was working for, doesn't it? Nothing happens in a vacuum. Why would a CIA analyst/operative go to work for DHS? To keep track of the competition?

"Well, ok, but I'm only going to be an analyst."

"I'll tell Jack."

+++

"Great, Bruce, I'll pass it along to the DI."

"Don't you have to run background checks and all that sort of stuff?"

“Of course we do. That was done before I made the offer. You won’t have to do anything. They already have your prints and pictures from when you were issued the federal CCW’s”

“What’s next?”

“We extend the other T-3 line from my house to your house and install the new computers. Do the two of you want to be set up for direct deposit or cash?”

“Direct Deposit. Maybe if I don’t see the money, my conscience will be clearer.”

“Intelligence operations and analysis are a necessary part of how every country does business, Bruce. Not having second thoughts, are you?”

o

With the new system and a 45mbps line, Bruce was able to do his job for the Times in about 12 hours a week. That left plenty of time for Mona and him to do research on the Shadow Government. They set the equipment up in their shelter instead of their home. The two of them were pulling in as much money per month as the typical Harvard MBA, that is to say, \$140,000 per year from EACH of their 3 jobs. They paid off the house after a couple of months. When the weather was clear, they went to the Agency and used the firing range to maintain their proficiency with their firearms, just in case.

o

*“We will be moving to United States in July of this year.”*

*“So soon? Have the Americans cleaned up their country so quickly?”*

*“No. They are having a terrible time with the weather. He says that we need to go now while they are occupied preparing for the next winter. The operation isn’t scheduled for a couple of years. We can go to an American University as a cover.”*

*“Where are we going?”*

*“We can either go to Dearborn, Michigan or Pasadena, California.”*

*“Let’s go to Pasadena, it is far too cold in Dearborn.”*

*“There are more of our countrymen in Detroit. No one would even notice our presence. We have genuine student Visa’s so we can enter the country legally.”*

*“What country are our Passports from? What is my new name to be?”*

*“The Passports are Israeli. The Americans love the Jewish dogs.”*

*“May Allah forgive us.”*

o

Warm weather in the United States meant that people were able to return to their homes. It had been a very long, cold and uncomfortable winter. With the roads open, people were able to get to their jobs and most companies were running 24/7 trying to catch up with demand. People used the extra money to put in additional fuel tanks and store extra food. None of the American crop surplus was being exported in 2006. The crops from 2005 didn't amount to much of anything, too much ash, and a very limited harvest. The crops of 2006 wouldn't amount to much of anything either because there wasn't enough water, sun or time. Not enough water because rain requires moisture in the atmosphere and moisture gets into the atmosphere through evaporation, which requires the heat of the sun. Not enough sun because, while the sky was noticeably clearer, if one were to actually filter the air, there was more dust in suspension than one might have thought. In order to get the dust out of the air, the Northern Hemisphere needed rain. It was another vicious little circle. Not enough time because lower temperatures shortened the growing season.

People, who could, moved to the south. That wasn't an option for many because there weren't enough jobs in the southern states. With the warmer weather the bad people began to appear. Within every country there is a certain element that finds it easier to take from others than to earn a living. Given the harsh winter, it was a localized phenomenon for the months following the terrorist attacks. Once summer came, they came out of the woodwork, forcing the President to use troops to try and maintain order. Congress naturally objected, citing Posse Comitatus. The President responded issuing a new EO temporarily suspending Posse Comitatus. Congress objected to the new EO. They'd have to fight it out in the Bush-packed federal court system. I wonder who would win.

In other countries, scientists were developing startling new cures by means of embryonic stem cell research. In the United States, people were dying for lack of cures becoming available in other countries. The embryonic stem cells were recovered from deceased fetuses. It wasn't like they were killing babies to get the embryonic stem cells, according to some. It was a very emotional issue in the United States.

Stem cells are cells within early embryos prior to implantation in the uterus that have the potential to create tissues which can be given to patients whose own tissues are missing or diseased. Currently, stem cells are being used for research to see how this can be successfully accomplished. There has been much concern by some regarding how stem cells are obtained for this scientific research. The concern revolves around whether embryos are being killed in order to remove these special cells. Some feel that embryos even prior to implantation represent potential persons who have rights that include the right to live and not be killed even to save the life of a patient.

To get around this moral dilemma, Mary and Anthony Mahowald writing in *The American Journal of Bioethics* (volume 2 number 1) suggest an ethical bypass. *They argue that killing and letting die should have the same standard moral and legal distinction in embryos as it has with persons who have been born. In these persons, organs are not obtained for research or transplantation by killing the person but are obtained only after the person has died. The Mahowalds argue that embryos in a Petri dish are more likely to die than become indisputably persons by being born – even if they are transferred to a woman’s body for gestation. The great majority are non-viable, which means that they will die in a short time (the onset of which may be delayed though freezing) no matter what efforts are made to sustain their development. Since death is certain for thousands of in vitro embryos, shouldn’t the same standard by which hospital patients are legally and morally allowed to die be acceptable for them?*

*... If stem cells are then retrieved from embryos that have expired, the retrieval is morally analogous to retrieval of vital organs from those who are newly deceased. ... Regardless of whether developing embryos are deemed persons, respect for human life in its earliest stages is compatible with research on stem cells obtained from human embryos so long as the cells are retrieved from embryos that have been allowed, respectfully, to die. Since stem cells can be used from recently dead embryos, the ethical bypass by the Mahowalds could be practical.* How do you feel about their argument in defense of the procurement of stem cells from such embryos? Should embryos that have just died have more right to their own integrity than a patient who has just died? If not, then there should be nothing unethical or immoral to obtain their stem cells. Correct? (I’m only quoting)

If you disagree, I conclude that you DON’T value life. You place the rights of a dead fetus ahead of the rights of living people. Put that in your pipe and smoke it. I’m old and could give a crap one way or another; I’m simply making an observation. Every coin has two sides and an edge.

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 10 – Searching for Shadows

The interesting thing about shadows is that you can't really touch them. A shadow is simply the absence of light caused by a person or object being between the light source and wherever the light happens to fall. Shadow Government was a perfect name. You could see it, but you couldn't really touch it. Bruce and Mona got the Gold and Silver Queen to invest their extra money in gold and silver too. They also kept theirs in the safe welded to the shelter floor. They began to accumulate gold because by comparison, silver took a lot of volume. They had \$5,000 face value in silver and soon were acquiring Krugerrands. The 22-carat Krugerrands were less susceptible to losing their value due to handling than the 24-carat coins.

Cindy had a girl that they named after her mother and Jack's mother, Cynthia June. Little Cindy came in around 7 pounds and was born on the 15th of April. Mona had a little boy who they named Robert Edward, after Bruce's father and a modified version of Edgar. Bobby was born on April 23rd and weighed 6½ pounds. The two ladies began to immediately workout to regain their figures. Nannies were hired to tend to the babies through the CIA personnel department. I didn't know that nannies carried guns, but these two women did.

The two guys assigned to Jack, back when they had extra protection, turned out to live in the other two houses with shelters in their neighborhood. One lived 3 doors down from Bruce in one direction and the other lived 4 doors down from Jack in the other direction. The DCI now proceeded to extend the tunnel, connecting all 4 homes together. Protection was as close as the basement tunnel. The nannies were the guy's wives and they worked for Operations, just like their husbands. Bruce didn't need to go looking for a conspiracy; they had one right here in their neighborhood. Not really, to be a conspiracy, it had to involve wrongdoing. None other than Oliver Wendell Holmes called such a situation, that didn't involve wrongdoing, a combination. You've heard of him, right?

◦

Bruce was doing very well with his research for the Times, but Mona and he were getting nowhere on the research into the Shadow Government. As I said, you can't touch a shadow, not really. The DCI didn't care; he had other things in mind for the 4 people. He suggested, via Jack, that they do some research into the backgrounds of the 3 men who had been killed attempting to kill Mona the third and final time an attempt was made. They had great access to records that they didn't even know existed. Mona and Bruce were able to examine telephone records online without any sort of search warrant; so extensive was the CIA's computer system.

◦

Gen. Richard B. Myers yesterday condemned as *absolutely irresponsible* an Amnesty International report that compared prisoner treatment at Guantanamo Bay to the Soviet

gulag, adding that 100 out of 68,000 detainees held in the war against terrorism were abused.

“It’s very small compared to the population of detainees we’ve handled,” said Gen. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also noted that many of the abuses have produced courts-martial and other punishments.

The London-based human rights organization called the US facility in Guantanamo Bay *the gulag of our time*, comparing it to the Soviet Union’s slave-labor camps where millions of people died.

Amnesty International also suggested that foreign governments investigate senior US officials involved in *torture scandals* and arrest and question Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, former CIA Director George Tenet, and Vice President Dick Cheney.

“I think it’s irresponsible. I think it’s absolutely irresponsible,” Gen. Myers told Fox News Sunday.

Senator John McCain, Arizona Republican, brushed off Amnesty’s suggestion for investigations of top US officials, saying, *that isn’t going to happen*, but added that Congress needs to exercise more diligent oversight of military prison conditions and the treatment of detainees.

◦

Just a Danged Minute!

Only 68,000 prisoners? Hundreds of thousands Iraqis surrendered to us!

What about the men who the Nazi’s executed for attempting *The Great Escape*?

What about the American POW’s who the Nazi’s executed during the Battle of the Bulge?

How many allied prisoners did the German abuse?

Have you ever heard of Bataan?

What about the millions of German soldiers who disappeared in Russian Gulags?

Remember John McCain? Five years in the Hanoi Hilton and I heard it wasn’t pretty.

Remember John Kerry? Three Band-Aids and a couple of stitches...

I could go on, you know...

I have the solution – don't take any prisoners. If they surrender, take them into the shed and put a bullet in their head when no one is looking. That will solve the problem. No wait, use your M16 and shoot them in the body, it will look less suspicious. Be careful that you get your stories straight; we take reporters along with cameras. That's how our people get in trouble – somebody with a camera recorded something he/she shouldn't have been allowed to record in the first place. And nobody had the courage to take away the tape/film. Without the tape/film, he/she couldn't prove anything. Who would have known about Abu Ghraib if some stupid soldier hadn't taken pictures? I'd sure compare making a man wear women's panties to them disappearing in a gulag or dying on a death march.

Give me a frigin' break. The US is its own worst enemy, most of the time. Screw Amnesty International!!! Fleataxi is right. Nuke 'em all and let God sort them out – just be sure to use neutron bombs and we'll steal their oil. I've got to go take a pill, I'm really po'd.

◦

BRUSSELS (Reuters) – The United States reactivated its World Trade Organization (WTO) case against European subsidies for aircraft maker Airbus on Monday after fresh efforts to reach a negotiated settlement with Brussels failed.

The legal action at the Geneva-based trade body over billions of dollars in aid is likely to be the largest commercial dispute in history and will put a severe strain on transatlantic business relations.

The two sides said in a joint statement they would not let their aviation spat spill into other trade areas, including negotiations with developing nations for a global free trade blueprint that are due to reach a climax in December.

It's those damned Frenchmen again... Strain trade? Good, I don't wear Chanel No. 5 anyway. But, I bought plenty for the Bimbos.

◦

I took the pill – I'm still po'd.

◦

CARACAS, Venezuela (Reuters) – Venezuela may stop allowing visits by American officials after US immigration authorities canceled the tourist visa of the Venezuelan Supreme Court President, the country's Vice President said.

Vice President Jose Vicente Rangel's office issued the warning on Monday in a statement criticizing the withdrawal this month of a US visa granted to Venezuela's top magistrate, Omar Mora.

“A lot of Americans come here, officials and senators, and we receive them without problems,” Rangel said. “But if this kind of policy continues, which attacks Venezuelan institutions and respectable citizens like the Supreme Court President, we will eventually have to adopt a similar measure.”

The visa incident seemed likely to further sour relations between Venezuela and its biggest oil client the United States.

Leftist Chavez is a fierce critic of US policies and accuses Washington of trying to topple or kill him, a charge dismissed as ridiculous by American officials.

Mora last week condemned the cancellation of his visa as an offense against the dignity of his position.

They shouldn't have let the Commie SOB in, in the first place.

o

ARLINGTON, Va. (Reuters) – Facing mounting casualties in Iraq, President Bush honored American war dead on Monday and vowed to complete the costly US mission against Saddam Hussein in Iraq and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Speaking at Arlington National Cemetery amid public doubts about his stewardship of the war, Bush claimed the United States was more secure because of the offensives he tied to the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

“The war on terror has brought great costs,” Bush said after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, which contains the remains of unidentified US troops from conflicts going back to World War One. Shortly before he spoke, an Iraqi aircraft crashed north-east of Baghdad with four Air Force personnel on board.

“For those who have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq, today is a day of last letters and fresh tears,” he said. “Because of the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, two terror regimes are gone forever, freedom is on the march and America is more secure.”

More than 1,600 Americans have been killed since Bush ousted Saddam in April 2003. Seventy US troops have been killed in May, making it the deadliest month for the US military since January when insurgents tried to derail the first post-Saddam elections in Iraq.

The United States has spent nearly \$300 billion in Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11th.

That man needs to get his head out and smell the ROSES...

◦

MÉXICO CITY (Reuters) – México’s so-called “Fire Volcano” spewed a column of rock, ash and lava almost three miles into the sky on Monday in its largest eruption in 15 years, civil protection officials said.

The government was considering evacuating tiny communities around the 12,540-foot (3,860 meter) Colima volcano in the western state of the same name after the predawn eruption.

Nah, all these stories about volcanoes just fiction...

◦

LONDON (Reuters) – The euro slid to its lowest level against the dollar in over seven months on Monday after French voters rejected the European Union constitution, throwing doubts over the political future of the bloc.

Good... BTW, the pill is working.

◦

“Bruce, we have a lead on who might have been involved in those attempts on Mona, based on some information you and she developed. Would you be interested and having a little chat with the fella?”

“You bet your bippy I would.”

“All we’re going to do is bring him in and question him. It doesn’t bother you that this action will be outside of the CIA Charter?”

“They tried to kill Mona 3 times, Jack. Not just no, but hell no.”

You do see how they work it, don’t you? They find an issue that your emotions overwhelm your common sense and/or whatever principles you may have had. The next thing you know, you’re working for the Operations Directorate instead of the Intelligence Directorate and you’re cover is perfect because you stay on the payroll of the Intelligence Directorate. They may not even tell you you’re with the Operations Directorate in the beginning. Your first clue will be when they send you to *The Farm* in Camp Peary, VA where you receive Basic Training and Covert Training. By the time that happens, they have you bent so far over the barrel that there isn’t much you can do about it.

To get you to take that basic training they tell you another *little white lie*, e.g., this is the basic training that every CIA employee gets, just so he or she can protect him or herself. It serves two purposes. One, you get the basic training; and two, it screens out

people who aren't suitable for covert training. Once you've passed basic training and are approved for covert training you find yourself over the barrel I mentioned. Maybe in the movie, *The Hunt for Red October*, Commander Bart Mancuso (Scott Glenn) could get away with the statement, *Central Intelligence Agency... Now, there's a contradiction in terms*. But that was only a movie. All most of us ever hear about is the CIA's failures, not their successes. They've had many... some of which are known and widely criticized. Think about all of those petty Latin American Dictators they installed in the fight against Communism. Well, nobody alive is perfect... unless He's back. Do you think Tony would get po'd if we dropped a neutron bomb on Amnesty International. Really? I was afraid of that.

o

"I just hired the guys and gave them a sealed envelope."

"Who hired you?"

"It was anonymous, a voice on the telephone."

"Which telephone?"

"My cell phone."

Jack nodded to a man who went to get the envelope holding the guy's possessions. He came back and handed the phone to Bruce, who slipped it in his pocket.

"We've got to be going. Bruce did you want a minute or two with *Mr. Lucky*, here?"

"Yes."

"Enjoy," Jack said leaving the room."

"What did he mean by that?" *Mr. Lucky* asked.

"The woman your thugs tried to kill was my wife."

"Like I told you, I just gave them an envelope," *Mr. Lucky's* voice trembled.

"Have you ever seen an H&K USP Tactical pistol? They're a .45ACP that has a suppressor and holds 12-rounds in the magazine. Personally, I prefer the HydraShok bullet, they really make a mess."

The man peed his pants and Bruce's nose told him that had hadn't stopped there. Bruce jacked a round into the chamber, slid the magazine the rest of the way in and screwed on the silencer. *Mr. Lucky* was handcuffed to a chair and couldn't move. Bruce pointed

the weapon at the man's head and slowly squeezed the trigger. *Mr. Lucky* screamed... and the firing pin fell... on an empty chamber. *Mr. Lucky* fainted.

Without even realizing it, Bruce has just crossed an invisible line. He secured his weapon and left the room. Jack and he headed back home where they could examine the guy's cell phone records. Some of the records a person doesn't see is that the Phone Company keeps include the number of the calling party. It is associated with the caller ID program. Computers can tell you everything these days providing you know which database to search. Bruce and Mona were becoming very proficient at searching computers. They had been provided with a program that would generate a user ID and the password to any system in a matter of moments and they could walk right in the front door, no hacking required.

When they got the number, they accessed another database and tracked it down to a private phone in the office of a mid-upper level government official. Jack suggested that they pass the information to the Agency and stay out of the matter from this point on. Bruce and Mona, he said, had to attend Basic Training that all CIA employees were required to take.

◦

Bruce and Mona passed the Basic Training with flying colors and were selected for *Advanced Training* aka Covert Training. About the second day of *Advanced Training* Bruce and Mona lost their naïveté when it occurred to them that they were being trained for the Operations Directorate. Most agents know that from the outset, but not everyone. Bruce had a word with an instructor about the training and he was told that another Operations Team would have a word with them later in the day. Gee, you'll never guess who that Operations Team was, will you? It was Bruce's best friend and his wife Cindy.

"Dang it Jack, what have Cindy and you gotten Mona and me into?"

"Buddy, the two of you are naturals. This wasn't my idea but I happen to agree wholly with the DCI's selection. Being an operative isn't about running around like James Bond killing people, there are specialists for that. Being an operative won't be any different than what I described to you in the beginning. Your job is to collect information. Your cover within the Agency will be that you're both analysts in the Intelligence Directorate. Your outside cover will be as a Reporter for the Times. The pay is far better and most of us in the business hang on to any excess funds so that we have money available if the need ever arises. The Agency will establish several accounts around the world with a basic fund for you to use in an emergency. We all have them. Generally we open a second account in the same financial institutions and dump unused funds from operations into those accounts. Haven't you seen the movie *The Bourne Identity* and *The Bourne Supremacy* based on Robert Ludlum's books? The next one they're bringing out is *The Bourne Ultimatum* in 2007.

◦

A man is washed ashore the beach of a small French village during a heavy storm. A retired doctor takes care of the unconscious stranger. When the mysterious man recovers, he cannot remember anything – He does not know his name, he does not know where flashback memories of violence come from, and he sure does not know why the access code of an anonymous Swiss bank account is implanted in his thigh. As he searches for his identity, things soon become dangerous. There are attempts to kill him, he is well known in first class hotels all around Europe, and, worst of all, there are strange similarities between his memories and reported actions of a high-class terrorist, Carlos. (Identity)

When a CIA operation to purchase classified Russian documents is blown by a rival agent – who then shows up in the sleepy seaside village where Bourne and Marie have been living under assumed names – the pair collapse their lives and head out. Bourne, who promised retaliation should anyone from his former life attempt contact, is forced to once again take up his life as a trained assassin to survive. (Supremacy)

o

“Those were movies.”

“Exactly. Real life isn’t like the movies. Any operative who was as visible as a 007 or a Bourne wouldn’t last 10 minutes. He fires a weapon more times in a single movie scene that most agents fire a weapon in their entire career. Do you know anyone with the Agency as visible as Felix Leiter? Hell, Felix Leiter was in 8 James Bond movies and they needed 7 different actors to play the part. Only David Hedison played the role more than once.”

“Why all the subterfuge?”

“Would you have even considered the job if you’d been approached directly.”

“Nope, not for a minute.”

“Like I said, the two of you are naturals. The DCI really wants you. Cindy and I want you; we’ll be teamed up on a lot of missions the Agency has planned.”

“What missions?”

“Sorry, not until you agree to complete your training and you both pass.”

“Mona, bail me out here.”

“I intend to finish the training Bruce.”

“Crap. Ok, me too.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 11 – Graduation Day

Subject to correction, the .32 ACP is the 7.65x17mm Browning cartridge. James Bond used the 7.65, e.g. .32 ACP Walther PPK, not the more powerful .380. Bond's gun was amazing. He could fire 24 shots without stopping to reload. From *Dr. No* – When shooting at the *dragon*, Bond's gun changes from a Walther PPK to a Colt .45. His gun also goes into slide lock (indicating empty) twice while shooting, and without visibly reloading, continues to fire. In the same movie when he attaches the silencer to his PPK, the grip of the gun carries the letters, FN. I'd sure like to have a gun like that. I wonder if Q has any more of those 24-round magazines? Bond obviously didn't carry spares or he would have used them. And, where would he keep them, in his socks? The Agency didn't issue a Walther PPK .32ACP to its agents; they'd be better off with clubs. I have heard that the .32 ACP will kill a sparrow – if you can get the bird to put the pistol in its beak.

◦

They always make mistakes in movies. Here's one you might not have been aware of: While it is possible for the two aircraft to get canopy to canopy like we saw during the beginning of the movie *Top Gun*, the F-14 in 1986 couldn't sustain an inverted state for more than two minutes. This is due to the that the Number 4½ bearing in the TF30-P414 engine used at that time not having a return pump for the oil. In the length of time it would take for the aircraft to get into position, the engines on the Tomcat would have failed. When this scene was shot, it was the F-5 that was inverted. Well, *I just happened to see a MiG 28 do a...* MiG's only have odd numbers. It was a movie, but geez...

◦

Unlike other graduation ceremonies, your folks don't get invited to the graduation exercise. The Agency doesn't even list the names that go with all of the stars on the wall of the lobby representing agents that were killed in the line of duty. How could revealing the name after 20 or 30 years compromise any intelligence operations? The words and stars in the photograph, carved in the marble facade of the north wall of the foyer of the CIA Headquarters Building, silently but permanently immortalize those CIA officers who lost their lives in the service of their country. The glass-encased Book of Honor located below the wall of stars displays the names of those whose names can, in death, now be revealed. This simple but starkly elegant memorial was sculpted by Harold Vogel in July 1974, having been commissioned by the Fine Arts Commission of the Central Intelligence Agency in May 1973.

Before you give me too hard a time about where the Agency is located, technically, you could say CIA headquarters is in both Langley and McLean. *Langley* is the name of the McLean neighborhood in which the CIA resides. Executive Order 12333 of 1981 explicitly prohibits the Central Intelligence Agency from engaging, either directly or indirectly, in assassinations. Right, but it was repealed by GWB.

The CIA carefully selects well-qualified people in nearly all fields of study. Scientists, engineers, economists, linguists, mathematicians, secretaries, accountants and computer specialists are but a few of the professionals' continually in demand. Much of the Agency's work, like that done in academic institutions, requires research, careful evaluation, and writing of reports that end up on the desks of this nation's policymakers. Applicants are expected to have a college degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and must be willing to relocate to the Washington, D.C., area. Selection for Agency employment is highly competitive and employees must successfully complete a polygraph and medical examination and a background investigation before entering on duty. The Agency endorses equal employment opportunity for all employees.

o

"You get the weekend off and then we're headed for Vienna," Jack announced.

"That's scary," Bruce said.

"What's scary, honey?"

"I got a ticket for Vienna from the Times yesterday. They want me to do an interview."

+++

"I don't know who he is behind that mask of his, but I do know when we need him... and we need him now!"

"Why is a woman in love like a welder? Because they both carry a torch!"

Are you old enough to remember the Batman TV series in 1966? Those were quotes.

o

I'm confused. Are we talking about Vienna, Austria or Vienna, Virginia? Bruce didn't need an airline ticket to get to Vienna, Virginia, so I guess we must be talking about Austria. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as other United Nations Offices and many international institutions and companies, are located in Vienna. During the Cold War, Vienna was a hotbed of international espionage owing to its location in neutral Austria, between the Western and Eastern blocs. And yes, they still have the choir of little boys wearing their shorts too tight. Vienna has a population of 1.6 million Viennese and 1,000 spies.

Their weapons went into a diplomatic pouch and would be waiting for them when they got to Vienna. I bet you always wondered how they got them through airport security. Bruce was scheduled to interview a member of OPEC, a Venezuelan. The Agency had one set of questions and the Times had a surprising similar list. This ought to be fun,

Venezuela was still angry at the US for halting oil imports and canceling the Judge's Visa. What the DCI wanted to know was what Venezuela intended to do about it.

Tradecraft can be defined as the means and methods of intelligence and espionage, the processes used by intelligence officers, operators, and assets (agents) to go about their business. The intelligence community, as well as 'non-State actors' such as al Qaeda, train personnel in tradecraft dogmatically – a set of rote procedures to accomplish a purpose. This creates inherent weakness in the personnel – without understanding the fundamentals of the tradecraft, they can't *improvise, adapt, and overcome* very well. (I'm quoting and somebody else obviously saw the movie, too.)

Any rote procedure creates a vulnerability that can be turned to an opponent's advantage, and in this case, perhaps that advantage can lead to identification and neutralization of al Qaeda sleeper agents. The killing of innocents, by any side, in any conflict, is reprehensible and should be prevented, but not at the cost of limiting the freedoms, the pursuit of life and liberty that is essential to happiness. It's like going into a knife fight with a dull blade and one hand tied behind your back, but to do otherwise makes the fight, and a victory, meaningless.

He didn't point out that a dull knife is far more dangerous than a sharp knife... So off the one reporter and his vacationing friends go to Vienna, Austria. The other three had something else to do while Bruce interviewed the Venezuelan representative to OPEC. Bruce took notes, but it was only a cover. The CIA had some individual in Technical Services who was nicknamed Q. The guy had developed a modified version of a Mont Blanc fountain pen. In the cap was a recording device built out of nano-technology that could record up to 3 hours of conversation. The remainder of the pen was genuine and could be used to take notes or occupy Bruce's pocket. The mike was so sensitive it could hear a mouse fart across a crowded room. The only thing Bruce had to remember was the various nuances on the man's face as he conducted the interview – for the Washington Times.

The Venezuelan representative to OPEC didn't come right out and say it, but it was apparent that they were more than a little angry at the US over the neutron bombs for oil thing. The United States had been their largest customer. The Calderas erupting had also seriously affected the weather in the Southern Hemisphere. When people can't sell their principal product and they're hungry, they tend to get very nasty. The Venezuelans' were added to the long list of countries that hate the United States.

Jack, Cindy and Mona went to meet a Russian counterpart of Jack's. The Russians and US might be on opposite sides, but that didn't mean that their agents didn't know each other or hadn't developed a grudging respect over the years.

Arkady knew all about Bruce and his mission. He even had a snapshot of Bruce entering OPEC Headquarters. Jack and Cindy explained that Bruce and Mona were fresh out of school at The Farm. Arkady cautioned that the reporter cover was getting old, hadn't the Agency developed something new by now? He also noted Jack's Mont Blanc foun-

tain pen, a device he claimed was invented by a Russian. Mona piped in that Bruce was really a reporter for the Times. Arkady said he knew, he'd read Bruce's articles in the Times. Good stuff, very distinctive style. He asked how the US was going to play the Venezuelan thing – the Venezuelans' were almost angry enough to go to war. Jack suggested that it might be time to install another petty Dictator. Arkady pointed out, rightly so, that that wasn't in vogue these days. It worked, the Russians did it too, but the media was getting better at making mountains out of molehills. He also wanted to know if Bush had invoked EO 10995 to try and conceal the bombing of Saudi Arabia.

The Russian winter of 2005-2006 had been the worst one in memory. Arkady wanted to know if those dead guy's in Puerto Vallarta were the one's responsible for setting the bombs. And then he laid a bombshell on the 3 Americans. There were still 8 of the stolen (from someone else) nukes that someone else had placed in a storage locker somewhere in the Southwestern United States. He even had a list of the serial numbers of the 13 nuclear devices involved in the mad scheme. Arkady wrapped up the conversation with a suggestion that he was retiring and moving to Montana. Jack told him that much of Montana was buried under several meters of volcanic ash. Arkady insisted that the Russian satellites showed areas in Montana that weren't covered in ash. No, he was moving to Montana, marry a fat American woman; buying a pickup truck and possibly an RV. (Good movie, wasn't it?)

*As always, should you or any of your force be caught or killed, the Secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions...* Martin Landau and Barbara Bain were divorced in 1993 after 36 years of marriage. Neither remarried. What Secretary? Was the DCI a Secretary now? Of what? The Trilateral Commission? No. To help preserve the Commission's unofficial character, members who take up positions in their national administration give up Trilateral Commission membership. New members are chosen on a national basis. The procedures used for rotation off and for invitation of new members vary from national group to national group. Three Chairmen (one from each region), Deputy Chairmen, and Directors constitute the leadership of the Trilateral Commission, along with an Executive Committee including 36 other members.

G.H.W. Bush was once a member. Zbigniew Brzezinski and Paul Volcker are Executive Committee members. Thomas Foley is the current North American Chairman, but Henry denies membership and he isn't listed. Did Deep Throat have a German accent? Henry was considered to be *Mr. Clean* in the Nixon Administration. Wiki says: Kissinger left office when former Georgia governor Jimmy Carter defeated Ford at the 1976 elections. He played a relatively minor role in the Reagan (1981-89) and first Bush (1989-93) administrations, mainly because the neo-conservative groups which dominated the Republican Party by 1981 considered Kissinger's détente policy to have been a form of appeasement of the Soviet Union. He continued to participate in policy groups such as the Trilateral Commission and to do political consulting, speaking, and writing. Maybe Henry is the Secretary, or was. He has been accused of all sorts of *war crimes*.

o

“What did I tell you, buddy? Nothing to it, now you know what Intelligence is really all about. Arkady said that there were 8 more of those non-stolen/non-Russian nukes in a storage locker somewhere in the Southwestern US.”

“Who, what, why, where, when and how?”

“Good questions, are you sure you aren’t a Reporter? Who is I don’t know; what is 8 nukes; why might be to attack the US again; where is in a storage locker somewhere in the Southwestern US, when is now or in the future; and, how could have been in containers or smuggled across the Mexican border.”

“Maybe it’s the Syrian – Iranian connection,” Cindy suggested.

“Mona, what was your impression of Arkady?”

“Late 40’s, single, stubby fingers, which probably explains the lack of a wedding ring, and cold, dead eyes.”

“He did wet work for a while.”

“I thought wet work was a myth.”

“Check this link out, when you get a chance.” (The link is to an article in the CNN archive about the Markov assassination with Ricin.)

“We’ve switched to gas guns now. One whiff and you have a heart attack, can’t be traced.”

“We won’t be asked to do things like that will we?”

Jack crossed his fingers, but didn’t answer, at first.

“I doubt it, the Agency uses specialists.”

The mechanical pencil in his pocket, part of the Mont Blanc pen and pencil set, was a... Mission accomplished. They were debriefed, separately, about the Venezuelan Representative’s body language and what Arkady told Jack, Cindy and Mona. It was already August of 2006. The Basic and Covert schools lasted a while, you know. There was a new group of Israeli students in Detroit getting ready for the next semester at the University of Phoenix, Detroit campus. They had 1-year, renewable, Student Visa’s. These people were more fluent in English than most Israelis.

Usually a shadow is right in front of you, out in the open, and you can see it but you still can’t touch it. The Trilateral Commission has offices and will even provide you with its publications, there is a link on their website. I wonder if that is anything like hiding in plain sight. If I suddenly die of a heart attack... blame the Russians. Executive Order

12333 of 1981 (USED TO) prevent(s) the Agency from doing political assassinations. Do you think that G.H.W. Bush will be ready to retire after 12 years in office, or will he run Jeb? Hillary wants another 8 years in office, you know. I can see it now, Jeb and Hillary. They'll end up renaming the White House Carrington Mansion. Dynasty was about a rich oil family in Denver, Colorado.

◦

US Border Patrol checkpoints near the Mexican border are essential in stopping the flow of illegal aliens and drugs into America, say law-enforcement authorities, but permanent checkpoints in southern Arizona are not allowed.

While Border Patrol agents in Arizona accounted for more than half of the 1.15 million illegals caught last year, Congress – led by Rep. Jim Kolbe, Arizona Republican – steadfastly has approved appropriation bills that prohibit permanent checkpoints along a 260-mile section of the Arizona border known as the Tucson sector.

Tucson is the only one of 20 Border Patrol sectors nationwide not permitted to set up permanent checkpoints.

That's ok, we have the Minutemen... Half of 1.15 million??? I wonder how many of those Mexicans were Terrorists? None, the Terrorists were the ones they didn't catch.

◦

WASHINGTON (Reuters) – Vanity Fair magazine said on Tuesday that Mark Felt, the former No. 2 FBI official, claims to be *Deep Throat*, the legendary source who leaked Watergate scandal secrets to the Washington Post and helped bring down President Richard Nixon.

Unmasking the identity of *Deep Throat*, a key Watergate source for Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, would solve one of the greatest political and journalistic mysteries of recent history.

The magazine said Felt, now a 91-year-old retiree living in Santa Rosa, California, admitted his role in the scandal to his family and cooperated with the story. It is the first time a major potential source has claimed to be *Deep Throat*.

Woodward, now a managing editor at the Post, did not immediately return phone messages. Woodward and Bernstein have refused to reveal the name of their source for more than three decades and said they would not name their source until after his death.

Bernstein told WABC-TV in New York: "We're not going to say anything at this time. When the person is deceased we will identify him."

Felt doesn't even LOOK like Henry... Oh, well.

o

Jack, Cindy and Mona were fulltime CIA analysts and only part-time operators. Bruce had his job at the Times, so they really did have the perfect covers. How does someone find 8 nuclear weapons in a storage locker in Phoenix, Arizona? If they knew to look in Phoenix, it might be easier, but do you have any idea how many storage lockers there are the Southwestern United States? Lots, there are about 1,000 in the Antelope Valley alone. And there was always the possibility that Arkady was lying, wasn't there? Did you hear that the President of Venezuela had a heart attack? It will happen next week. Maybe the Russians did it.

It can't be the Israelis; we blamed them the last time, didn't we? In its history the Mossad only ever admitted to a few assassinations: Assassination of those responsible for the Munich Massacre at the 1972 Olympic Games and the Lillehammer affair; providing intelligence for the assassination of Abu Jihad by Israeli commandos (unverified but widely believed); and, the assassination of Gerald Bull (unverified but widely believed). I had planned on telling you more about the Mossad, but on second thought...

o

Their next assignment wasn't long in coming. DCI didn't take news about those 8 nukes very well. He turned the information over to the FBI and Homeland Security, as was proper, but didn't have much confidence in his friends on the other side of the aisle. The 4 of them went back to being USSS, again; the Secretary of DHS owed the Director a favor or two. The FBI had tackled California because that was where the San Andreas Fault was located. Homeland Security was looking in the area of all of the nuclear reactors in California and was planning on going to Palo Verde west of Phoenix next.

"Personally, I'd have looked in northern California, Oregon and Washington for the weapons, but I've never known Arkady to be wrong."

"Where do you know him from, the Cold War?"

"Not hardly, I didn't join the Agency until '92. When I graduated from The Farm in '94, my first assignment was in Vienna and I met him there. He was formerly KGB, but they became the FSB, the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation. I can tell you, it got worse with the FSB after I met him. In '98 they lost their meal allowances and 1/2 their pay. They didn't have any civilian employees by then either. Arkady was a something Colonel the last I knew. I really do believe he was serious about coming to the US."

"Can't you get the DCI to request his services? They did something like that in *Red Heat* and *Black Rain*. In the first one, Arnold came to Chicago to work with Jim Belushi and

the second one, Michael Douglas went to Japan to embarrass himself and the Japanese.”

“Do you live your whole life on a VHS cassette or DVD disc?”

“No, but just because the idea came from a motion picture doesn’t make it a bad idea. At least Arkady might know how to make sure the things were disarmed if we found them.”

“He has a point, honey,” Cindy suggested.

“I’ll ask, but I wouldn’t hold my breath if I were you.”

o

“Welcome to Washington, Arkady, your first time here?” Bruce asked.

“You are the designated driver? I saw your photo in Vienna?”

“Are you packing?”

“Suitcase is still in luggage carousel.”

“Do you have a weapon?”

“Is at embassy in a diplomatic bag.”

“Mona said you spoke very good English, giving me a hard time are you?”

“No, just wanted to see if you were on your toes. Did you find the nukes yet?”

“Not a clue. The FBI is going through California with a fine-tooth comb and DHS is checking lockers in the areas of our reactors.”

“Have you looked in Arizona?”

“Not yet, do you know something Arkady?”

“Just a third-hand rumor. I heard that they brought them across your border with Mexico. There’s a reactor in Arizona, isn’t there; Palo Verde?”

“Yes. The only two operating reactor locations in California are...”

“Diablo Canyon and San Onofre.”

“You’ve done your homework.”

“I hear that Mona and you are pretty good at research.”

“The largest cities in Arizona are Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa, Glendale and Scottsdale.”

“Phoenix, Mesa, Glendale and Scottsdale are mostly a single metropolitan area, so that might be a good place to start, Bruce.”

“We could put a team on Tucson and a third on Flagstaff.”

“If you have the resources, why not.”

“Do you know how to disarm one of these devices if we find them?”

“I brought the plans so you can give them to your Nuclear Emergency Search Teams.”

◦

The Remote Sensing Laboratory (RSL) supports routine scientific and engineering functions and emergency response requirements. RSL support work involves the separate areas of nuclear data analysis, multispectral remote sensing, aircraft scheduling, geographic data collection, inventory control, archiving, systems design, scientific and engineering analysis, photographic image processing, and communications.

The objective of the Nuclear Emergency Search Team is to search for, identify, assess, and disable any nuclear weapon directed against the United States for purposes of terrorism, coercion, or extortion. This is a multi-agency effort, primarily involving DOE, DOD, FBI and FEMA. There have been 6 nuclear threats in the US.

◦

“We’re here,” Bruce said. “This is your embassy isn’t it? You’ll want to get your weapon before we go to Langley.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 12 – Bomb Hunt

Obviously the DCI was extremely concerned about those 8 bombs. He had to be to invite a Russian agent to help with the search. The Russian blueprints had *Made in China* stamped on them and all of the labels were in English. Arkady was forced to check his weapon, an H&K USP Tactical .45ACP pistol with suppressor, in the lobby. You didn't think a genuine Russian spy would use a Russian pistol, did you? Members of the FSB generally carried the PB/6P9 silenced pistol, the APB/6P13 silenced pistol, the PSS/6P28 or the standard issue (since 1996) Gyrza/Vector SR-1 which he didn't like because his hands were too small. None of them compared well with H&K and the .45ACP, according to Arkady. The standard issue SR-1 was a piece of junk.

They couldn't locate the nukes using helicopters and radiation detection equipment. The people who had hidden them had shielded them with over 4" of lead sheeting. The NEST people said that anything over 10cm of lead would prevent them from being detected. The problem was compounded by the sheer number of storage lockers in the Phoenix Metropolitan area and the high probability that they wouldn't be in plain view. It was at best speculation – a third-hand rumor and two more reactors were only 500 miles away.

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"They've turned every storage locker and every box in Flagstaff and Tucson. Nothing," Jack reported.

"How are we doing in Phoenix?"

"Bruce, we losing ground. They've pulled more people off to search in California. I think we should send our wives home. Someone has to watch out for the kids besides the CIA Nannies."

"I would do that Bruce," Arkady recommended. "In the old days, before, they would have brought in the Russian Army and dumped every box in Moscow. You're doing a better job here than we could, but we don't have these storage lockers."

"I suppose we'd better. Has anyone said anything about where the terrorists might be?"

"The New York City area, Detroit and Los Angeles have the largest concentrations of Arab-Americans, Bruce." Jack replied. "Immigrants from South Asia, including India and Pakistan, live in virtually every major US urban center. The largest concentration of Afghan-Americans, some 40,000, is in the San Francisco Bay Area."

"That would be worse than looking for a needle in a haystack. Those are the biggest cities in the country. I agree about sending Mona and Cindy back to Vienna, but they aren't going to like it."

“They’ll do whatever the Agency tells them to do. I’ve got to make a call, excuse me,” Jack said and left.

“Is he going to call your Director of Intelligence?”

“Maybe, but I’m beginning to wonder if Jack doesn’t have the DCI’s private phone number.”

“The FSB would never permit a field agent to call a Colonel General.”

“Arkady, the Agency doesn’t have many people like Jack and Cindy.”

“Isn’t your wife an analyst? The dossier I saw about the two of you stated that you’re both field agents but that her fulltime work is with the Intelligence Directorate and that working for the Times is a cover for you working as an analyst which is nothing more than a cover for your field work.”

“Your information may be accurate but this is only the second time either of us has done any field work and most of the work that either of us does is primarily as analysts. I don’t know how detailed that dossier was and I’m not sure that I should say anything more than that. Even if that file is detailed I’m not going to confirm your information.”

“That is as it should be, Bruce. I wasn’t asking for confirmation. I know what’s in the file and it isn’t as complete as it could be because you’re relatively new. I’d guess the file on me is reasonably complete because I’ve known Jack since 1994 in Vienna. I’m getting out, you know. When we’ve found those nukes, I’m retiring. I have no ties in Russia. I plan to apply for permanent resident in the US. Some of your Operations people will try to debrief me, but with the system in place in the FSB there isn’t much I can tell them that they don’t already know.”

“Won’t your people object?”

“Sure they will, but I’ll ask for political asylum and tell your people what little I might know that they want confirmed. It is nothing. Our countries use satellites and space age communications technology. There is a lot that I don’t know because I’m pretty far down on the pecking order.”

“Jack said you were a Colonel.”

“Sub-Polkovnik/Captain-2nd rank, but I was a Major/Captain 3rd rank, until very recently. The FSB has had a lot of resignations. I’m the same as your Lt. Colonel/Commander. As I said it was a very recent promotion. I didn’t realize that Jack knew.”

“He said... well never mind.”

“The Cardinal? He gone, resigned to go into the private sector. Anyone with half a brain is leaving these days.”

“I didn’t say anything about anyone named Cardinal. Tom Clancy wrote a book you know.”

“Fiction, but pretty accurate fiction.”

“In the beginning, I was GRU, military intelligence. There was a lot of competition and I moved to the KGB. It disappeared and became, eventually, the FSB. I’d have been better off in the GRU since it is still intact. The GRU still remains, to this day, a very important part of the Russian Federation’s intelligence services. The FSB is the successor organization to the KGB. Following the attempted coup of 1991 against Mikhail Gorbachev, the KGB was dismantled and ceased to exist after November 1991. Its successor the FSK, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, was reorganized into the FSB by the Federal Law of April 3, 1995. It was very confusing. I met Jack when I was FSK.”

“What about these nukes?”

“They are similar to the bomb you dropped on Hiroshima in design. We both used something similar in our nuclear cannon shells. The smallest weapon your side had was the Davy Crockett.”

“I wouldn’t know I’m not a nuclear expert.”

“Use the Internet to look it up; I hear you are very talented.”

“The wives will be getting a call ordering them back to Washington,” Jack said returning.

“Are you going to tell them or am I?”

“Neither, they’ll get a call from the DI or the DO.”

“How did you manage that?”

“High friends in low places, or was that low friends in high places?” Jack chuckled and winked. “They’re bringing in the Army to help us search.”

“Won’t that tip off the terrorists?”

“EO 10995.”

“You Americans are not so different from us.”

“Sure we are Arkady; we only do that in an emergency, not all of the time.”

“Gorbachev changed many things. That Yeltsin, I didn’t like him. Putin is ok; he was the former director of FSB.”

“They’re bringing in the 82 or 101st.”

“Ah, you’re Airborne Rapid Reaction Forces. Not as good as our Spetsnaz.”

(Spetsnaz can refer to elite units controlled by the FSB with counter-terrorist and anti-sabotage tasks, Ministry of Interior (of the police) MVD, and the army special forces controlled by the military intelligence service GRU. There has always been a certain amount of shifting of personnel and units between both the GRU who control Spetsnaz and the MVD with OSNAZ MVD and OZNAZ KGB or FSB, especially between the latter two.)

“I said Airborne, not Special Forces or SEALS, Arkady. Care to put your Spetsnaz up against our SEALS?”

“A very interesting proposition, Jack. Your people don’t train with entrenching tools or knives like the Spetsnaz do.”

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They figured that they’d find the weapons eventually, providing they were anywhere in the Southwestern United States. With military troops coming in and a media blackout, they figured to find the weapons and bait a trap to wait for the terrorists to show up to get the weapons for their next project. Bruce was forced to call the Times and request a leave of absence. Arkady was on TDY until the problem was resolved and that word came directly from the Federation President’s office. There would most certainly be a show trial when this bunch was caught.

There really wasn’t anything in New Mexico that bombing would have a large impact upon. They stuck with the original plan and continued to work to clear Arizona and the southern half of California. There was simply too much information available to suggest you couldn’t trigger an earthquake with a nuke. The most likely west coast targets were reactors or volcanoes. From the amount of time they’d already spent searching for the devices, which couldn’t have been on a timer or they’d have gone off. The only risk when they found them would be that they were booby-trapped. The devices, even with the extra shielding weren’t that big.

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(CNN) – Florida Gov. Jeb Bush would be *awfully good* in the job of president, but the timing isn’t right, his father and former President George H. W. Bush told CNN Tuesday. Former President George Bush and wife Barbara spoke about the Bush political dynasty with Larry King.

Just remember I said it a day or so before the article appeared on CNN... Oh yes, they'll call it the Carrington Manor. I could have told you the US Supreme Court would reverse the Arthur Anderson conviction, too. The Court's vote was unanimous. I blew it on Henry, but 2 out of 3 isn't bad. I should have known. Sneaking around in a bunch of parking garages wasn't Henry's style; the man was far too arrogant. His German accent was so thick you couldn't cut it with an axe.

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One day, about a month later, a paratrooper came up against some cardboard boxes that were too heavy to move. It had always been just a matter of time... The boxes were in a storage locker in Glendale, Arizona, the largest community that was closest to Palo Verde. The NEST removed the explosives and cores and left the weapons in place... Ultimately it would prove to be a year before the terrorists showed up to retrieve their hidden property. The FBI got the surveillance assignment and assigned 3 shifts of 8 agents each and one supervisor to cover all 3 shifts. There was the agent called *eyes* who watched a bank of video monitors; *ears* who listened over the parabolic mike and 3 pairs of agents assigned to chase cars; on each shift, 24/7.

Arkady asked for political asylum and it was granted without so much as a peep out of Vladimir. The CIA debriefing only lasted a few of days and Arkady could have been called Sgt. Schultz. He did tell the Agency that as far as he knew, that accounted for all of the missing Russian nukes. Arkady had a little money squirreled away; it seemed to be a common occurrence. He decided that Montana hadn't been a good choice for a couple of reasons. There was the weather, it was colder than Siberia; and, there were all of those darned missile silos. Arkady moved to the Lake of the Ozarks area, Osage Beach, in central Missouri. He kept in touch with Jack because he wanted to know the outcome of the FBI surveillance operation. GWB got a cryptic message from his friend, Vladimir, *You owe me.*

o

President Bush yesterday called a report by Amnesty International "absurd" for its charge that the United States is mistreating terrorist suspects in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, saying accusations were being made by "people who hate America."

"I thought John Bolton was going to get an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor, just like he deserves an up-or-down vote on the Senate floor, and clearly he's got the votes to get confirmed. And so I was disappointed that once again, the leadership there in the Senate didn't give him an up-or-down vote. In terms of the request for documents, I view that as just another stall tactic, another way to delay, another way to not allow Bolton to get an up-or-down vote," he said, his voice rising. "We've answered questions after questions after questions. ... And so it's just a stalling tactic. And I would hope that when they get back, that they stop stalling and give the man a vote."

The Washington Times on Tuesday reported that an al Qaeda handbook directs operatives to level charges of torture once captured; a training regime that administration officials say explains some of the charges of abuse at Guantanamo Bay. "The United States is a country that is – promotes freedom around the world," Mr. Bush said. "When there's accusations made about certain actions by our people, they're fully investigated in a transparent way. It's just an absurd allegation. In terms of the detainees, we've had thousands of people detained. ... And so it was an absurd report. It just is." (Did he stomp his foot?)

Everybody hates the United States, unless someone is invading their country. The Democrats in the Congress don't like you Mr. Bush, get used to it. They aren't there to do a job; they're only there to be politicians. Bush sounds a little frustrated in that Rose Garden interview. What I want to know was what he was doing giving Jeb an in-depth tour of the White House, er, Carrington Manor. 2012 or 2016?

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Things were back to normal, except for the weather. NOAA claimed that the salinity of the Atlantic Ocean seemed to be stabilizing. Tank manufacturers were working 24/7 turning out 1,000-gallon fuel oil tanks. Across the country, people were hoarding food. Arkady's new home had, you guessed it, a bomb shelter. Arkady was from Russia where Civil Defense wasn't considered a joke, but a necessity. Jack and Bruce had clued him in on Radmeters4U and Nitro-pak. Arkady had a trunk with most of his possessions that he'd left at the Russian Embassy until shortly before he asked for political asylum. It contained 2 AK-47's, the one's with the machined receiver, 2 H&K G-3 rifles, magazines for both, and a pair of Saiga 12K folding-stock shotguns with a dozen 8-round magazines, each.

In the interim, the President of Venezuela had died of that cancer. The Israelis in Detroit had renewed their student Visa's for another year. A courier delivered a message telling them it would be another year, possibly two. Bruce was back at the Times and Jack and Cindy were at their desks at the Intelligence Directorate. He decided it would be a good time to start outlining the book he was planning. He was going to divide it into 3 sections with the first describing Mona and his experience getting back to Washington and the second chronicling the winters caused by the caldera eruptions. The third section was reserved for observations pertaining to the original National Geographical Society's study. Bruce wanted to get his recollections about the original event on paper before the memories became too dim.

Late fall/early winter found the effects of the caldera eruptions to be worse the second year than the first. Scientists said the planet was cooling off, down 3° F and still cooling. The snow wasn't as bad the second year due to the general lack of moisture in the atmosphere. However, it got very, very cold. Northern Siberia was more like the Arctic Circle and Montana was more like Northern Siberia. Because so many people had added 1,000-gallon fuel oil tanks, the people who couldn't get them or couldn't afford them

were able to get their fuel oil deliveries the winter of 2006-2007. Snow hadn't completely melted in the northern climes of North America and Asia during the summer.

Cindy and Mona were expecting for a second time, absence must have truly made the hearts grow fonder. Arkady went looking for a wife in Brighton Beach. He met a lady who had been to a very special school in Russia. She said she'd do anything to get out of Brighton Beach. She did, so he invited her come to Missouri. Her English was better than his. She accepted the invitation and was expecting a baby too. It seemed that in America marriage was optional, but they got married anyway. Arkady was secretly a Russian Orthodox. She had been trained to be open to anything. I somehow doubt they'll ever make *The Charm School* into a movie rated G.

Most of the story is about captured American pilots who are traded by the North Vietnamese to the Soviet Union for weapons. The Soviets interrogate them for years, but by the early 1980s, technology has changed so much that the pilots' information is no longer useful. Rather than kill them, the Soviets find another, far more disturbing, use for the Americans at a top-secret base called *Mrs. Ivanova's Charm School*.

American tourist Gregory Fisher meets an escapee from the school, who fills him in. Fisher manages to call the American Embassy before disappearing mysteriously. Fisher's information lands in the lap of Colonel Sam Hollis (himself a Vietnam veteran), who teams up with a reporter. With the help of fanatical CIA agent Seth Avery, they snoop (and occasionally shoot) in and around Moscow while learning more about the *Charm School* and Fisher's disappearance. Soon, however, they attract the attention of the Soviet secret police, who capture and send them to – you guessed it – the *Charm School*.

o

In January of 2007, they got an assignment to go to Venezuela. It seems that the petty Dictator in charge of the country really thought he was in charge of the country. The CIA Factbook says, "Venezuela was one of three countries that emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 (the others being Colombia and Ecuador). For most of the first half of the 20th century, Venezuela was ruled by generally benevolent military strongmen, who promoted the oil industry and allowed for some social reforms. Democratically elected governments have held sway since 1959. Current concerns include: a polarized political environment, a politicized military, drug-related violence along the Colombian border, increasing internal drug consumption, overdependence on the petroleum industry with its price fluctuations, and irresponsible mining operations that are endangering the rain forest and indigenous peoples."

Venezuela is located in Northern South America, bordering the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, between Colombia and Guyana. Venezuela claims all of the area west of the Essequibo River in Guyana, preventing any discussion of a maritime boundary; Guyana has expressed its intention to join Barbados in asserting claims before UNCLOS that the Trinidad and Tobago's maritime boundary with Venezuela extends into their waters; dispute with Colombia over Los Monjes islands and maritime boundary

near the Gulf of Venezuela; Colombian-organized illegal narcotics and paramilitary activities penetrate Venezuela's shared border region resulting in several thousand residents migrating away from the border; the US, France and the Netherlands recognize Venezuela's claim to give full effect to Aves Island, which creates a Venezuelan EEZ/continental shelf extending over a large portion of the Caribbean Sea; Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines protest Venezuela's claim that Aves Island sustains human habitation and other states' recognition of it.

It's a small-scale illicit producer of opium and coca for the processing of opiates and coca derivatives; however, large quantities of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana transit the country from Colombia bound for US and Europe; significant narcotics-related money-laundering activity, especially along the border with Colombia and on Margarita Island; active eradication program primarily targeting opium; increasing signs of drug-related activities by Colombian insurgents on border.

They ended up in Caracas, the capital, entering Venezuela through Simón Bolívar International Airport located in Miaquetia, near the capital. Bruce's cover was a follow up interview with the OPEC representative he'd interviewed in Vienna. He now carried both the Mont Blanc pen and the mechanical pencil. They stopped by the Embassy to check with the Chief of Station and retrieve their personal possessions. Their obviously pregnant wives mostly stayed in the hotel, although the babies weren't due until late May. The ladies kept in touch with the Agency via a satellite uplink to Mona's laptop computer, a Pentium IV with every built-in imaginable.

While Bruce conducted the interview, Jack and a local operative were getting the lay of the land, trying to figure out how to get to the new head of state, a certain Generalissimo Trujillo, no relation to the Dominican Dictator whose full name was Rafael Leónidas Trujillo Molina who had been assassinated in 1961. There was suspicion that the CIA provided the weapons to the assassins in hopes of creating the possibility of the formation of a less reactionary government, fearing that Trujillo's repressive tactics could lead to another *revolutionary situation* as had occurred in nearby Cuba.

"They picked the wrong petty Dictator to install this time," Jack told Bruce that evening.

"Don't they usually?"

"Unfortunately."

"What's his security like?"

"Stronger than Castro's"

"How would you know? Never mind, forget I asked. If I don't know, they can't torture it out of me when we get captured."

“We can’t get within a mile of this guy.”

“Mona’s a pretty good shot; can you get your hands on a suppressed Mk 15?”

“Consider it done.”

Do you remember my telling you that Mona said, “Well, ok, but I’m only going to be an analyst?” That was then and this was, well, now. Besides, they had a really large budget for this operation and whatever they didn’t spend ended up in two of their bank accounts, a straight 50-50 split. Bruce could quit his jobs with the Times and work fulltime on his book. Not! The DCI would never let him break his cover. The best place to get a shot would be from the Russian Embassy.

“Arkady, ever been to Venezuela? Really? I didn’t know. You do know somebody, right? Good. We’ll make it a 3-way split. Ok, see you in a couple of days. What? Oh, a suppressed Mk 15 from about 1,800-yards. Right, arrivederci.”

“He has a friend in the Embassy from the FSB. He said the friend would do it, but we’d have to give him the Mk 15 and political asylum.”

“I’ll get you the Raufoss ammo used by our snipers, Mona. The bullets are rather explosive. If you can put one in his torso, we can go home.”

“I haven’t practiced at 2,000-yards since I got pregnant.”

“I didn’t even know you had a Mk 15 rifle.”

“We have 2 .50 caliber rifles, a M82A3 and a McMillan Tac-50.”

“The Tac-50 is bolt action...”

“Yeah, no problem using a silencer.”

“Shoot down any helicopters lately?”

“I haven’t shot down any helicopters, period. I need a Tac-50, fully equipped.”

“Can she really shoot that well at 2,000-yards?”

“About ½ moa, with the Tac-50.”

“That Generalissimo is a dead man.”

“I sure hope so. When is Arkady coming?”

“Day after tomorrow.”

“Did I hear you say a 3-way split?”

“Yeah, but if he can get us in the Embassy, it will be worth it.”

“I guess I won’t give up my day job.”

“The DCI wouldn’t let you anyway.”

They called Arkady and added a Tac-50 to the Barrett order and he flew them into Caracas in a Diplomatic bag. It arrived on the same day as Arkady and Tanya. Jack took Arkady and Tanya back to the hotel and got them checked in. A couple of hours later, a courier delivered a pouch from the American Embassy. The rifle had been sighted in for 2000-yards and had a Nightforce 12-42x56mm scope, McCann Night Vision Rail, AN/PVS-27 and an Elite Iron suppressor. Mona said that she had to test fire the rifle before the mission and she could stand a little practice.

“I don’t know who worked on this rifle, but it’s more accurate than mine.”

“Then you can make the shot?”

“Can a fish swim?”

“Don’t be over confident.”

“Look, Jack, we have a laser rangefinder and the scope has 100-meter increments out to 2,000-meters. You could probably make the shot.”

“Tanya’s pregnant too?”

“It must be the weather in Missouri, cold nights.”

“What about your friend?”

“He will let us in; we’ll take the shot and just leave the Barrett rifle at the Russian Embassy. He’ll show up at the American Embassy a couple of days later and your people will get him to the states.”

“No wife or family or anything?”

“Tanya has a friend at Brighton Beach.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 13 – Paying Debts

Mona made the shot, the dictator died and they returned to the United States. A few days later, GWB got a cryptic message from his friend, Vladimir, "You owe me, again." The problem with owing somebody, twice, is that sometimes they make you pay your debts. It wouldn't be long in coming. Shortly after Arkady's friend was debriefed by the Agency, got married and set up in the Lake of the Ozarks area, Vladimir called in the debt. The Iranians were trying to blackmail the Russian Federation. Unfortunately the Russian Federation had dismantled all of their neutron bombs under START II and they didn't have any stealth bombers.

"George, how are things in the US?"

"Vladimir can't complain. Dang Democrats. What's up?"

"The Iranians are trying to blackmail the Federation."

"So, solve that problem like we handled the Saudi problem."

"I'd love to, but we dismantled all of our neutron bombs under START II. Plus, we don't have any of the earth-penetrating nuclear weapons or any stealth bombers."

"I don't know what you expect the United States to do about it."

"You owe me, George. I want you to take care of it for us and we'll back your play in the UN."

"Well, ok, but that will put the shoe on the other foot. You're going to owe me big time."

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In the summer of 1991, a team of Los Alamos nuclear weapons scientists delivered a briefing to the Defense Science Board, provocatively titled "Potential Uses for Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons in the New World Order." The Bush administration envisions Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP) as a weapon to destroy deep underground targets, while others believe the B-61 Mod 11, a weapon already in the arsenal, accomplishes that goal. The study of a Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator will evaluate modifications to existing nuclear weapons that do not require nuclear testing. The outcome of an RNEP study would be a recommendation to proceed with selective modifications to existing weapons that would ultimately strengthen deterrence by improving the credibility of strategic forces against hard and deeply buried facilities. One effort to improve the US capability against HBDTs is a joint DoD/DOE phase 6.2/6.2A Study to be started in April 2002. This effort will identify whether an existing warhead in a 5,000-pound class penetrator would provide significantly enhanced earth penetration capabilities compared to the B61 Mod 11. Livermore is working on modifying the existing B-83 gravity bomb, while Los Alamos is studying modifications to the B-61 bomb.

On 16 September 2003, the Senate considered two amendments to the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for FY 2004 that would prohibit the use of Department of Energy funds for nuclear weapons development. An amendment authored by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) that would have eliminated the \$6 million in the bill for the Advanced Concepts Initiative. That amendment, which was defeated by a vote of 53-41, also would have reduced funding for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP). Senator Feinstein's amendment would have specifically prohibited the use of funds for Department of Energy activities relating to the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, Advanced Weapons Concepts, modification of the readiness posture of the Nevada Test Site, and the Modern Pit Facility. Senator Reid's amendment, which prohibited the use of funds for certain activities relating to advanced nuclear weapons concepts, including the robust nuclear earth penetrator, later passed the Senate in a voice vote.

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May 2005 – President Bush today praised new National Intelligence Director John D. Negroponte and principal deputy intelligence director, Air Force Lt. General Michael V. Hayden, during the officials' swearing-in ceremonies held here.

US lawmakers, concerned about intelligence lapses prior to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and faulty intelligence about Iraq's weapons in the run-up to the US-led war in that country, created the national director position as part of a broader intelligence reform initiative. In his new post, Mr. Negroponte will coordinate the gathering and sharing of intelligence by the nation's 15 spy agencies.

Senate Intelligence Committee chairman, Republican Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, says Mr. Negroponte, a career diplomat, is the right person for the job. "Clearly, Ambassador Negroponte will face significant challenges," he said. "He is going to carry heavy burdens. But I am convinced, however, that he has the character, he has the expertise, and he has the leadership skills required to successfully meet these challenges and to shoulder these responsibilities."

Mr. Negroponte's most recent position was as US ambassador to Iraq, where he served for nine months. Before his service in Baghdad, he was US ambassador to the United Nations. He has also held ambassadorships in Honduras, México and the Philippines.

Some Democrats are concerned by Ambassador Negroponte's tenure in Honduras, from 1981 to 1985, when human rights groups say he turned a blind eye to human rights abuses.

And, if it weren't that, it would have been something else.

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They ended up making some cannon barrels big enough to hold the W-70 warheads. Once the underground facility was penetrated, a 0.3kt weapon would be large enough. That's how they developed the first earth-penetrating conventional bombs, using cannon barrels. The GBU-28 is a 4000-pound bomb that is designed to penetrate hardened targets before exploding. The Guided Bomb Unit-28 (GBU-28) is a special weapon developed for penetrating hardened Iraqi command centers located deep underground. This 5000 lb bunker buster was required for special targets during the Desert Storm conflict and was designed, fabricated and loaded in record time. The GBU-28 is a 5,000-pound laser-guided conventional munition that uses a 4,400-pound penetrating warhead. The bombs are modified Army artillery tubes, weigh 4,637 pounds, and contain 630 pounds of high explosives. They are fitted with GBU-27 LGB kits, 14.5 inches in diameter and almost 19 feet long. The operator illuminates a target with a laser designator and then the munition guides to a spot of laser energy reflected from the target. They didn't need to reinvent the wheel.

Two B-2 bombers took off from Arabia, one loaded with 16 GBU-28/B-61's and the other loaded with 16 W-70 neutron bombs that the US didn't have and claimed they never would. China and the European nations were up in arms in the UN the following day. George denied the whole thing and President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation announced to the world that since the US attack on Saudi Arabia, Russia had been monitoring the US bomber flights on an ongoing basis and those two planes that took off from Arabia flew straight to Diego Garcia. Russian FSB had absolutely no reason to believe that the Americans were behind the bombing of Iran. It was probably, he said, the work of the Israelis. The tally was: 2 down and 1 to go.

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“Arkady. Hobo?”

“Speak English, Vasily, you're in America now. I'm fine, thanks for asking.”

“Da. Sasha isn't what I expected.”

“Are you complaining?”

“No. I'm exhausted. She speaks English very well.”

“She should, she went to The School.”

“That explains it. I always thought of myself as a Cossack. Believe me my friend, it isn't so.”

“I learned the same lesson, Vasily. Do you have any weapons besides the Barrett rifle?”

“No. Well, I have my SR-1.”

“That’s a piece of junk. Did you have an account?”

“Da. Yes. 10,000,000 Rubles.”

“The exchange rate makes that about \$352,286. Do you have the money?”

“Yes.”

“You need to make preparations, Vasily. You will need a nuclear bomb shelter, equipment, food and weapons. I have some friends who will help me get weapons. You should have what I have and I should buy Tanya a USP Tactical. You should do the same for Sasha.”

“Ah, The School. Proficient?”

“Very. Their marksmanship rivals their English.”

“What will I buy for weapons?”

“2 USP Tacticals, 2 AK-47’s, 2 G-3 rifles, 2 Saiga 12K folding-stock shotguns, magazines, ammo and suppressors for the pistols.”

“This is permitted in America?”

“Well...”

“I understand. Our secret, Da?”

“Yes Vasily, our secret.”

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“Jack? Arkady. I need a favor.”

“I owe you Arkady. What can I do for you?”

“I need 2 each USP Tacticals with suppressors, 2 AK-47’s with machined receivers, 2 G-3 rifles, 2 Saiga 12K folding-stock shotguns, magazines and ammo. I, we, can pay cash.”

“Plan on starting a war?”

“No. Equipping a shelter.”

“Vasily?”

“Yes, I have all of those things except for one USP and suppressor.”

“Really? The trunk from the Embassy?”

“Exactly so.”

“I’ll need a few days.”

“We still have to get the shelter, no problem. Will I have any problem buying a rifle like Vasily has?”

“I’ll simplify everything for you and get you one. Suppressor?”

“Yes, please.”

“Standard, select fire, G-3 with full stock?”

“Right.”

“We’ll make a trip of it and Bruce and I will come to see you in about a week.”

“Thanks Jack.”

“Don’t mention it. To anyone.”

“Yes, Our secret.”

o

Just as Jack was hanging up the phone he heard a click on the line. He called Technical Services and explained the problem. Technical Services said that there was no way that the Agencies phones could be bugged. Jack asked if he connected to the other party, again, could they tell if the other guy’s line was bugged. Their answer was, “Maybe.”

“Sir, could I see you?”

“Jack, of course. Come up anytime.”

“Is right now ok Sir?”

“I’ll order coffee.”

“What’s the problem, Jack?”

“I think someone is bugging Arkady’s phone.”

“What makes you think so?”

“Arkady called and asked for my help on something. When I hung up, I heard a click on the line. Technical Services said that if I called him back, they might be able to tell if his line was bugged, but possibly not.”

“What did he want?”

“Weapons for Vasily’s bomb shelter.”

“The same stuff that was in Arkady’s trunk?”

“Plus a UPS Tactical with a suppressor, probably for Tanya, and a full round for Vasily. He also wanted a Barrett for himself.”

“Now, you were never here, Jack. I’ll make a call and you’ll get a delivery at home tonight with what Arkady wants. Call it insurance. The other call will be to check on the tap. That may be difficult because of that damned USA Patriot Act and their secret court. If I can’t find out, I’ll let you know and we’ll send some people to Missouri. You call Arkady back and tell him that the wires have ears.”

“Arkady, Jack.”

“Hi Jack.”

“The wires have ears my friend.”

“Really? I’ll tell my friend.”

“Good idea. When Bruce and I come, we may bring our friends from the basement.”

“Oh? Ok. Goodbye.”

“Bye.”

◦

“What do you make of that call?”

“It was that Agency guy and it was some kind of code. That’s how these spooks are, practicing their tradecraft on each other all the time. Forget it.”

◦

TOM here in Palmdale...

The FBI may not be stupid, but they're pansies, witness the .40 S&W. If they're going to have a 10mm handgun, fine. But, they should get a 10mm and not a 10mm short. To my way of thinking, a 10mm MP5 like the USSS uses is one hell of a lot better than a 9mm anything. I'd prefer a Thompson, but the MP5/10 is more compact, lighter and doesn't have a recoil problem. Obviously I don't care for the current .223 caliber BB gun the military is using. If the M4 is bad on velocity, imagine what the XM8 with a 12" barrel will be like. That will be the standard issue weapon although they are looking at a different caliber cartridge on the order of the 6.8mm Remington SPC. I wish the Army would readopt the M14 rifle with a Beretta tri-comp and selective fire, preferable semi-auto, 3-round burst and full-auto.

Thank GOD my kid will have a regular M16A2 when he goes to Iraq in October 2005. He also has my Rambo II knife sharpened to a shaving edge top and bottom. Let's just hope he never gets close enough to anyone that he has to use it. Did you know that when he died, Steve McQueen had signed to be John Rambo in *First Blood*? Rambo, who I liked, was a jerk and Sly was perfect for the part. McQueen probably never would have generated the sequels. Finally, the seed I planted by writing a story based in Flip-pin, Arkansas has the wife about ready to move. If we could sell the house before the housing bubble bursts, we may end up on our way.

o

Secret Service agents and officers carry the Sig Sauer P229, .357 Sig caliber pistol. They also are trained on the Remington Model 870 shotgun, the Uzi submachine gun, and the MP5 automatic weapon. Fortunately, very few USSS personnel have been shot while guarding the President or other protectees, but the risks are always there.

Examples of employees who have been shot are Officer Leslie Coffelt and Special Agent Tim McCarthy. Officer Coffelt was shot and killed in 1950 when two Puerto Rican nationalists tried to assassinate President Harry Truman. Officer Coffelt died of his injury on the lawn in front of the Blair House. Special Agent McCarthy was shot by John Hinkley, Jr. when he tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981. Special Agent McCarthy recovered from his injury. In both of those incidents other law enforcement personnel also were wounded.

The USSS also had an agent wounded in the attempted assassination of Presidential candidate Governor George Wallace. Special Agent Nick Zarvos was shot in the throat, but survived, as did Governor Wallace. USSS personnel spend a lot of time training, and they also make a lot of advance preparations before one of their protectees visits somewhere to try and minimize the chances of someone with a gun getting close to any of their protectees. As of 2003, the USSS lost 34 employees as a result of on-duty incidents.

All new agents spend 9 weeks in Glynco, Georgia, at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center where they are taught basic police skills. These basic skills include law, firearms training, defensive tactics, and report writing. After completing the first school,

all Secret Service agents come to Washington, DC, where they undergo 12 additional weeks of training.

The second school is only attended by Secret Service agents and (uniformed) officers. In that school, they learn things very specific to the Secret Service including how to detect counterfeit money and credit card fraud, how to protect people and how to drive in special ways to help keep their protectees safe. Even after agents or officers have completed both schools, they continue to receive training throughout their careers.

◦

“Did you get the delivery, Jack?”

“Yes Sir.”

“Please come to my office.”

“Yes Sir.”

“Come in. Have a seat. I couldn’t find out who has the tap. Bruce and you will take Technical Services with you when you go to Missouri. Find out who is behind this and let me know. I can handle it from there. I suspect the FBI.”

“Yes Sir, when do we leave?”

“Immediately. Go ready for bear.”

“Yes Sir.”

“Thanks, Jack.”

◦

“This is the Reporter. We’re leaving tomorrow and will bring 2 people with us.”

“Thanks, Comrade.”

Bruce was laughing so hard he almost let it slip.

“Das Vi’danya, Comrade.” That ought to get the people on the line worked up good!

◦

“Freeze. FBI. Hands in the air.”

“How can we freeze and raise our hands?” Jack asked. “CIA. Go to hell.”

“You people are outside of your Charter. You’re under arrest for supplying weapons to foreign agents.”

“Are you sure about that? Look over your shoulder.”

“You’re joking, right?”

“NO! HE ISN’T,” a loud voice came from behind the FBI agents. “United States Secret Service. Put down the weapons and stand down, gentlemen.” That must have looked like a 3-ring circus.

“Since when does the United States Secret Service get involved in counter-intelligence operations? The FBI agent asked holstering his weapon.

“We’re members of the White House Detail. Does that answer your question?”

“Show me some ID.”

“Fine. If our friends from the FBI make one false move, shoot them, fellas.”

+++

“Here’s the ID. These people are, in fact, CIA, two analysts from the Directorate of Intelligence and two members of their Technical Services. You gentlemen are interfering with a matter of National Security.”

“What matter of National Security?”

“Sorry, you don’t have a need to know. Let me see the Court Order for the wiretap.”

“It’s right here.”

The senior USSS agent pulled out a cell phone and made a call. Twenty minutes later his phone rang.

“It’s for you.”

“Agent Reynolds.”

“Sir. Sir. Yes Sir. Immediately. Yes Sir, the first flight out.”

+++

“What would you have done if he called the USSS to verify?” Jack asked.

“Nothing. It was covered from the outset. Have fun; we have to get back to Langley. We’ll probably take the same plane as those FBI agents. That really ought to po them.”

“George?”

The USSS agent shrugged his shoulders. He didn’t know and didn’t want to know. They wrapped up and left. The 2 guys from Technical Services left with them after giving Jack some gadget to check the lines. At the Springfield, Missouri airport, the USSS agents and the FBI agents boarded the same flight. Each group pretended to not recognize the other. The correct answer would have been the Chief of the White House Detail on direct orders from the Secretary of the DHS. But the President did, in fact, know about it. He’d told the Detail Chief to handle it and not to fill him in on how he did. Arkady and Vasily had been thoroughly vetted and the President knew all about them living in Missouri.

o

“Thank you Sir, they’re set. I think that maybe I’ll get a couple of the .50 caliber rifles, too. Bruce and Mona have 2, an M82A1 and a McMillan Tac-50.”

“Forget it, Jack, it never happened.”

“Yes Sir.”

“Does Cindy know a lot about Syria?”

“Couldn’t say, Sir. We don’t really talk a lot about our work. We decided when we got married to keep it vague.”

“I’ll call her and talk to her. Thanks Jack.”

“Yes, Sir, Thank You.”

“Cindy someone wants to know what you know about Syria.”

“He already called and I’m on my way to his office. I’ll tell you what I can tonight.”

+++

“Well?”

“The Syrians have Saddam’s WMD’s, it been confirmed.”

“And...”

“Sorry honey, that’s all that I can say.”

“God it’s frustrating being married to a Spook.”

“Tell me about it.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 14 – Explanations

The Operations Directorate of the CIA is prohibited from operating on American soil. Quite some time back, an alternative strategy was developed to permit them to do the occasional job in the country. It involved using alternative authority and who better than the USSS? The FBI was only doing its job keeping an eye on the two Russians, would you call them defectors? They weren't defectors and they weren't retired. They had been personally assigned by you-know-who to help the Americans resolve problems that would otherwise prove insurmountable. Bush, Sr. was a former DCI, but you knew that, right? January 30, 1976 to January 20, 1977, he was preceded by William E. Colby and succeeded by Admiral Stansfield Turner. The whole intelligence thing is a shell game, governed by politics. Having US operators, agents, call them what you will, being friends with Russians was nothing new, and we were allies during WW II. Most agents have names, not numbers.

"Bond, James Bond."

"Ah, 007, I've looked forward to meeting you, how's the wife?"

"Dead; even having a Mafioso for a father didn't protect her." (Her name was Tracy).

"Nice suit, Savile Row?"

"I find them acceptable."

"Rolex?"

"Submariner."

James Bond had more money than the Queen of England. He had more sneaky toys than a Toys 'R Us. And they were always right at hand when he needed them. His wristwatch must have weighed 20 pounds and cost £200,000. SMERSH was part of the KGB, it was their counterintelligence agency. It's rumored that a Royal Navy Engineer approached the producers after the film's release to ask them how they designed the mini-rebreather. Apparently he had been working on something similar but could not figure it out. He was devastated when the producers told them their secret – the actors were holding their breaths.

Contessa Teresa di Vincenzo (or Tracy) was the daughter of Marc-Ange Draco, the head of the Union Corse, a powerful European crime syndicate. Draco believes the only way to save his daughter's life is for Bond to marry her. For that, Draco offers Bond a great dowry – as well as Blofeld's whereabouts. Bond refuses this offer, but does agree to continue to see Tracy while her mental health improves. Bond escapes from Piz Gloria and encounters Tracy, who helps him escape from SPECTRE. Bond, who has become smitten with the resourceful, headstrong woman, proposes marriage and she accepts (On Her Majesty's Secret Service).

George Lazenby was hired as Bond after Lazenby arranged an “accidental” encounter with the producer. Lazenby dressed the part, by sporting several sartorial Bond elements, such as a Rolex Submariner wristwatch and a Savile Row suit; Broccoli noticed him as a Bond-type man, because of physique and the character’s elements, and offered him an audition. Diana Rigg, who played Tracy Bond, was later chosen partly because producers wanted an already established actress to play opposite the inexperienced Lazenby.

Bond and Tracy marry in Portugal, with Draco’s men and M, Q and a tearful Miss Moneybags present. They drive off in Bond’s Aston Martin, but the couple stops on the roadside a few kilometers later so he can remove the flower decorations from their wedding. As Bond and Tracy exchange sweet nothings, a black Mercedes sedan – carrying Blofeld in a neck brace – drives past; his henchwoman Irma Bunt leans out of a window of the speeding car and shoots Tracy through the head, killing her. A policeman on a motorbike finds Bond cradling his wife’s head, and a grief-stricken Bond – fingering Tracy’s wedding band – tells him, “We have all the time in the world”. This phrase was later reproduced as the epitaph on the headstone of Tracy’s grave in the opening teaser of ‘For Your Eyes Only (1981)’, in which Bond finally exacts revenge on Blofeld for Tracy’s murder.

◦

I did have a friend with the Agency. He was recruited at ISU in 1965 and ended up in Cambodia and/or Thailand and/or Laos during the Vietnam War. Married a local and brought her back to Iowa when he returned to Charles City later to go back to farming. They do let you retire in real life.

◦

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) – George Mikan, professional basketball’s first dominant big man who led the Minneapolis Lakers to five NBA championships, has died, family members said Thursday. He was 80.

◦

LAGUNA BEACH, California (AP) – Fourteen-year-old Haley Stevens was getting ready for school when her morning routine was shattered by the sounds of trees and houses being torn from the ground. Wednesday’s landslide destroyed 17 multimillion-dollar houses as it sent structures crashing down a hill. Residents alarmed by the sound of walls and pipes coming apart ran for their lives – many still in their pajamas.

◦

WASHINGTON – Some past and present FBI agents said Wednesday that they felt uncomfortable with the revelation that one of their own was the legendary *Deep Throat*,

who had helped the Washington Post uncover details of the Watergate break-in. One called it appalling. But others said that W. Mark Felt, then the FBI's No. 2 man, did what he had to do to get the story out. That's a sentiment that has permeated the bureau throughout its history and continues to this day – sometimes for ignoble purposes.

It had started – already. He should have kept his mouth shut, never, never kiss and tell.

◦

A number of years ago I discovered a root cause of America's culture war. It came to me as I debated professor Alan Dershowitz about issues of Jewish concern before a 1,000 Jews at the 92nd Street "Y" in New York City. With the exception of support for Israel, Dershowitz, a Harvard liberal, and I agreed on nothing, political or religious. Toward the end of the evening I came to understand why.

"Ladies and gentlemen," I announced, "the major difference between Alan Dershowitz and me is this: When professor Dershowitz differs with the Torah, he assumes that he is right and the Torah is wrong. When I differ with the Torah, I assume that I am wrong and the Torah is right." Dershowitz responded that, for the first time that evening, he agreed with me.

The perfect legal team: Alan Dershowitz and Jerry Spence. The author of that item wasn't Jerry Spence. They'd have the jury so confused that they wouldn't be able to convict a fly accused of being an insect, even if the glove DID fit.

◦

The 'Israelis' in Detroit were getting restless. EO 10995 had worked; they knew nothing about what had happened in Arizona. Jack had been right all along; their targets were some volcanoes in the Cascade Range. The term "most powerful explosive" is a nebulous one at best – highest brisance, detonation rate, energy per unit mass, energy per unit volume, etc.? HMX is made as a "sister" explosive to RDX by Holston Defense Corporation, a subsidiary of Eastman Chemical Company. It has some special applications for the military who are our sole customers because of its physical properties. The most important is where the name is derived from – High Melting eXplosive. It is especially suitable for applications where other explosives would be unstable because of high temperatures.

"The most powerful explosive is a mixture of pure tetranitromethane and toluene, supposedly it achieves temp of over 10,000° C and 10400 M/s in an Argon atmosphere the temp rises to over 27,000° C."

There you go again with your tall tales. The mixture is certainly powerful (134% of TNT) which puts it in the range of good military explosives, but it is much too dangerous as has been proven by a tragic accident. The detonation velocity is probably around the

8,000 m/s mark as reported by the French in their tests of "Panclastite." The most similar common explosive would be NG, although the TNM mix is even more shock sensitive and is especially susceptible to LVD. Thermal stability is probably low since other hydrocarbon mixtures of TNM are known to explode in the 150° C range.

I haven't calculated the explosion temperature, but it is safe to say that it is nowhere near 5,000° C much less 10,000.

The temperature of Argon exposed to an explosive shockwave is certainly very high, but that is true for all high explosives and has little to do with any particular properties of the TNM mix other than the high, but not unusual detonation pressure of the material. Argon and the other monatomic gases have lower molar heat capacities than the other gases and thus they reach higher adiabatic compression temperatures.

+++

The astrolite family of liquid explosives were products of rocket propellant research in the '60's. Astrolite A-1-5 is supposed to be the world's most powerful non-nuclear explosive-at about 1.8 to 2 times more powerful than TNT. Being more powerful it is also safer to handle than TNT (not that it isn't safe in the first place) and Nitroglycerin.

"Astrolite G is a clear liquid explosive especially designed to produce very high detonation velocity, 8,600 m/s (meters/sec.), compared with 7,700 m/s for nitroglycerin and 6,900 m/s for TNT ...In addition, a very unusual characteristic is that it the liquid explosive has the ability to be absorbed easily into the ground while remaining detonable... In field tests, Astrolite G has remained detonable for 4 days in the ground, even when the soil was soaked due to rainy weather know what that means? ...Astrolite Dynamite! To make (mix in fairly large container & outside) Two parts by weight of Ammonium Nitrate mixed with one part by weight Anhydrous Hydrazine, produces Astrolite G ...Feel free to use different ratios.

Hydrazine is the chemical you'll probably have the hardest time getting hold of. Uses for Hydrazine are: Rocket fuel, agricultural chemicals (Maleic Hydrazide), drugs (antibacterial and antihypertension), polymerization catalyst, plating metals on glass and plastics, solder fluxes, photographic developers, diving equipment. Hydrazine is also the chemical you should be careful with.

o

The point is that should the 'Israelis' discover that they'd been found out, they could always go to plan B, providing that they didn't get caught in the first place. It would be unwise to just leave 8 nukes in a storage locker in Glendale, Arizona without checking on them from time-to-time. On the off chance that someone had discovered the weapons and was using them for bait, one 'Israeli' went to Glendale and observed the storage locker for several days before checking on the containers. This fellow happened to look more Méxican than Arab. A few days into his observations, he realized that the

worst had happened, the storage locker was under surveillance; he did what any smart-thinking terrorist would do, he simply walked away...

*"We have been discovered."*

*"How do you know?"*

*"Surveillance in 8 hours shifts; about 8 men on a shift."*

*"We must find another way."*

*"Do we have a plan B?"*

*"We'll think of something. This will be... most difficult."*

*"Perhaps the Syrians..."*

*"What? They cannot help us, we are on our own."*

*"The Chinese or the North Koreans?"*

*"Not possible."*

*"Nothing is as powerful as a nuclear weapon."*

*"True. But, the weapons would have had to be buried deeply in the earth to have the desired effect anyway. The most powerful commercially available explosive is used in a versatile and safe slurry form to release high energy in the well bore. Sustained 200 bpd increases from explosive fracturing have occurred in field tests by The Western Co. in producing oil wells. The key features of the method are well bore loading with bagged or high viscosity explosive and solid tamping with cement and gravel.*

*"Some advantages of the system include the following: (1) good explosive-to-formation contact gives maximum energy transfer; (2) high stresses near the well bore cause desirable random fracturing; (3) concentrated explosive generates the highest volume of gases for fracture; (4) casing is not damaged with protective tamping; and (5) cost compares with hydraulic fracturing. Field results have been obtained from test site quarry shots, dry hole tests, and oil wells to depths of 7,000', as shown by tabular data. Treatment size in producing wells in both cased and open hole has generally been over 1,000 lb per well with large shots up to 8,500 lb. Poor tests in some wells point out the fact that explosive fracturing is not suitable for all wells."*

o

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Oct. 24 (2004) – The Iraqi interim government has warned the United States and international nuclear inspectors that nearly 380 tons of powerful conventional explosives – used to demolish buildings, make missile warheads and detonate nuclear weapons – are missing from one of Iraq’s most sensitive former military installations. The huge facility, called Al Qa’qaa, was supposed to be under American military control but is now a no man’s land, still picked over by looters as recently as Sunday. United Nations weapons inspectors had monitored the explosives for many years, but White House and Pentagon officials acknowledge that the explosives vanished sometime after the American-led invasion last year. The White House said President Bush’s national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, was informed within the past month that the explosives were missing. It is unclear whether President Bush was informed. American officials have never publicly announced the disappearance, but beginning last week they answered questions about it posed by The New York Times and the CBS News program “60 Minutes.”

◦

I remember that story now; it was a whole warehouse of explosives that disappeared. All of the news channels on cable carried the story. I wonder whatever happened to those explosives. I doubt they were used for IEDs. Apparently people carried them off, but to where? Nah, they couldn’t have managed to load them in a few containers and have shipped them to the US. We have Customs and they search about 2% of all the containers entering the country... Why would anyone import nitrates? Don’t we have plenty here?

*“According to the map, there is an old mine in this mountain. It is an extinct volcano.”*

*“Extinct? That would never do.”*

*“The USGS has been monitoring seismic activity in the area. Maybe...”*

*“Where is this mountain?”*

*“It is in the Cascade range in the state of Oregon.”*

*“Do you think...?”*

*“It is difficult to say. We will look on the Internet.”*

◦

“Vladimir? George. Have you heard the news about the stockpiles of Saddam’s WMD in Syria?”

“We heard. I could have told you.”

“Why didn’t you?”

“Politics.”

“The reason I called is that I’m calling in the favor.”

“Iran?”

“Right. Can you keep China and the UN off our back so we can handle the problem in Syria?”

“You’ll owe me big time, George.”

“We let those two spies of yours in, doesn’t that count for something?”

“Not that much.”

“What do you need?”

“A few hundred of the GBU-28 casings for the nuclear bombs. We’ll supply our own bombs.”

“Is that all?”

“No, but it’s a start. We have some people working on adapting some of our weapons to neutron bombs, again. I don’t suppose that you could sell us a couple of Nighthawks, could you?”

“No way, but we could make some suggestions about how you could modify the TU-160 Blackjacks.” (The performance of the Russian Tu-160 is often compared to the US B-1B. The aircraft has an operational range of 14,000km and a service ceiling of 16,000m. The maximum flight speed is 2,000kph at high altitude and 1,030kph at low altitude. The radar cross section of a B-1B Lancer is about 1 m<sup>2</sup>.) The Tu-160 is an overgrown Tu-122M3, the Backfire C.

“Deal. When are you carrying it out?”

“Next week. I’ve got to run, my people will be in touch with your people.”

“Goodbye, George.”

+++

“Did he buy it?”

“Yep. Tell them to go ahead and convert the Lancers back to nuclear/conventional platforms. We’ll use some discretionary funds for the project.”

“What else, Sir?”

“Give them a copy of the blueprints for the B1-A and 300 of the GBU-28 casings we’re using for our earth-penetrating nuclear weapons.”

“But the B-1A had problems.”

“Do you want them to have the B-1B?”

“No Sir.”

“They’ll still have problems; their Tu-160 needs better engines.”

“Yes Sir.”

“When?”

“Let’s do it Tuesday, I hate Mondays.”

◦

As the B-1A Program was terminated in 1977, the DOD initiated a study through the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board to determine the need and direction for future strategic bombers. The results of the study concluded that a derivative of the B-1A, the B-1B, was the best candidate to fulfill the nation’s needs within the envisioned mission requirements and the projected deployment date. Although the B-1B retained the same general geometrical shape of the B-1A, the shift in emphasis on penetration of highly defended targets resulted in modifications to the more crucial aircraft systems, especially defensive systems. The B-1B has a maximum speed of only half that of the B-1A, but it incorporates many more advanced concepts for enhanced survivability. Then known as the Long Range Combat Aircraft (LRCA), the B-1B was selected as the next strategic bomber and endorsed for production by President Ronald Reagan in October 1981.

◦

“What did he want?”

“They’re taking out Syria next week. I got some GBU-28 casings and information on the B1-B in exchange.”

“Comrade, it would have been better to get information on the B1-A, it was a better aircraft in many respects.”

“If I know George, he’ll send us copies of the blueprints for the B-1A that are labeled B-1B. Keep a satellite watch on their Lancers. He’ll probably convert them back to nuclear bombers.”

“Did he say when?”

“George hates Mondays, so my guess would be Tuesday.”

“What else did he say?”

“Well, he obviously knows about Arkady and Vasily. Do you suspect that he knows that Tanya and Sasha are on the payroll too?”

“The information was closely held. Not even Arkady and Vasily know.”

“Good. Thank you, Comrade.”

o

Jack and Cindy had another girl and Bruce and Mona another boy. They had planned on the opposite so desperately they swapped the names they had picked out. Jack and Cindy named their little girl Mona Susan and Bruce and Mona named their little boy John Anthony. Both babies were born in late May 2007. Sasha and Tanya had their babies later during the summer.

The operation in Syria had gone off without a hitch. China made a lot of noise because they were losing all of their friends in the Middle East. They were cautioned to stay out of it. They had 400 nuclear weapons and Russia had 10,000. The United States, they were told, had clearly proven the superiority of their stealth aircraft. Besides, the US had modified the B-1B’s and they could either carry convention weapons or nuclear weapons. The US had about 5,600 active weapons in their inventory.

The Chinese response was that they had those 40 Backfire C bombers and could respond to Russia in kind. The Russians then told the Chinese about their newly modified Tu-160 Blackjack bombers that incorporated several features of the American B-1A bombers and improved engines they’d bought from the British under license. That exchanged ended up as a standoff.

Several nations raised hell in the UN, again. The President of the Russian Federation told the world, again, that the two B-2 Bombers that had left Arabia had flown straight to Guam. The United States maintained its fleet of B-2 bombers at Royal Air Force Fairford in the United Kingdom; Anderson AFB, Guam; Diego Garcia; and, Whiteman AFB, Missouri. That was up until they redeployed the bombers from Whiteman to Riyadh, Arabia. The modified B-1B bombers were also redeployed.

The Air Force had anticipated completing the retirement and relocation of 33 B-1B bombers by 01 October 2003. The number of operational B-1B air bases had also been reduced from five to two. The Air Force anticipated that these initiatives would save \$1.4 billion over five years. A total of eight of the retired B-1Bs were to be placed on display at various Air Force bases. The remaining 24 were to be sent to the Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Center at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. Of these, 10 of the B-1Bs at Davis-Monthan would be placed in storage, and the remainder used to provide spare parts for the 60 bombers still in service. The retiring aircraft will comprise all of those built in 1983 and most built in 1984. The 10 aircraft at Davis-Monthan, together with the 60 bombers still on active service were modified. There wasn't enough money to bring the others out of retirement.

o

“Yes Comrade Colonel-General?”

“Sir, those explosives that disappeared in Iraq back in 2004 have turned up.”

“Where?”

“Vancouver, British Columbia. Four containers are aboard a container ship that is scheduled to unload in Puget Sound.”

“Notify Vasily and Arkady. Have them touch bases with Jack and the new guy, what's his name?”

“Bruce Jenkins.”

“Right the reporter with the Washington Times. Tell Tanya and Sasha to break cover and work with Arkady and Vasily. What's the word on the terrorists?”

“We lost them, Comrade. The FBI is maintaining surveillance and one of the terrorists spotted them before they spotted him. We lost him just outside of Detroit. Shouldn't you tell your friend?”

“Not yet. Let's see if we can intercept the explosives. That will make George owe me an even bigger one.”

“Comrade, those FBI agents are wasting their time watching the storage locker.”

“Would you rather have them free to watch our people?”

“No, Comrade.”

“Good Comrade Colonel-General. I guess I'll have to find someone else to take over command of the gulag in northern Siberia.”

## TEOTWAWKI, Too! – Part I – Chapter 15 – Explosive Situation

It should end, too, one of the longest-running (and most enjoyable) floating parlor games for political junkies. Former Nixon aides John W. Dean III and Leonard Garment, as well as others who wrote books about Throat, should be glad they got their royalty checks when they did. Bill Gaines, the journalism professor whose classes researched the Throat mystery year after year, will need a new syllabus.

But if the guessing game was diverting – as in fun – it also diverted discussion from more significant aspects of Watergate. This week's revelation doesn't change our understanding of the crisis in any fundamental way.

For one thing, many people suspected all along that Felt was Throat, despite his denials. (Woodward never ruled out Felt, though he did rule out a few other possibilities.) Although few people knew Throat's identity with certainty, the revelation is more a thrill than a surprise. It's not as if *Deep Throat* turned out to be former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger or Nixon's son-in-law, David Eisenhower – disclosures that might well have rattled notions about Watergate, forcing historians to rethink Nixon's relationship to those closest to him.

I obviously wasn't the only person who thought it was Henry, LOL.

◦

“Jack? Arkady.”

“Arkady, what's up?”

“We've gotten new instructions, Jack. We need to get together ASAP.”

“We know, we're already packing. You didn't really think that your communications were all that secure, did you?”

“A man has a right to hope.”

“That was a real surprise about the ladies, wasn't it?”

“Vasily and I should have known. When will you get here?”

“The Coast Guard is closing all of the ports and has gotten the Canadians to agree. We're leaving in an hour, but even driving straight through; it will take a minimum of 24 hours.”

“We have a problem with our babies, Jack.”

“Are they sick?”

“No, but we don’t have anyone to watch them.”

“Any objections if we send one of our Nannies to watch them?”

“I like that, my friend. They will be very safe having a field operative watching them.”

“Her husband will come along.”

“Right, two operatives, that’s even better. Tell the FBI to stop watching Glendale and start looking at Detroit.”

“Right.”

◦

“Sir, its Jack. Arkady needs someone to watch their kids. I suggested sending one of our Nannies and her husband.”

“I’ll handle it Jack, when are you leaving?”

“In about 10 minutes, Sir.”

“Anything else?”

“Arkady said to pull the FBI off Glendale and start looking in Detroit.”

“Detroit? Right, that figures. I’m on it. Drive carefully and my regards to Bruce and the wives.”

◦

NEW YORK (Reuters) – A federal judge has ordered the US Army to release more than 100 photographs and several videos taken by an American soldier relating to detainee abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, according to court documents.

Judge Alvin Hellerstein of the US District Court in Manhattan late on Wednesday ordered the Defense Department to process 144 photographs by June 30.

The photographs and videos, to be edited so the faces of soldiers are not shown, were provided by Sgt. Joseph Darby, whose photos set off the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal more than a year ago.

Hellerstein gave the government 10 days to estimate how long it would take to edit four videos, also to be handed over.

How did a guy stupid enough to take photos and videos ever make it to Sergeant?

◦

BEIJING (Reuters) – China’s Tiananmen Square democracy movement ended in 1989 with tanks rolling in and hundreds dead, but despite its brutal suppression there remained a flicker of hope that one day there could be political change.

Yet as the nation approaches the 16th anniversary of the crackdown on the student-led movement on Saturday, analysts say that hope looks increasingly distant in light of a tightening climate for intellectuals and media.

The death in January of the top Chinese leader ousted for his sympathy with the movement and a recent rash of detentions of reporters and academics has only made the likelihood of political reform more distant, they said.

“There’s a reluctant coming to terms with the fact that China is not moving in a gradualistic opening direction, which has been the hope of everyone since Tiananmen – that the aims of Tiananmen could somehow be reached gradualistically,” said Bruce Gilley, a research fellow at Princeton University.

The dimming chances are no better symbolized than by the death this year of Zhao Ziyang, once the second-most powerful man in China before he was purged and placed under house arrest for sympathizing with the student demonstrators.

“Surprise, surprise, surprise, Sergeant Carter!” I would have never guessed that the Chinese would start acting like that!

◦

Why drive when you could fly? Why not? Did you ever try to get your automatic weapons on an airplane? Do you think the airline would accept you’re checked ammo for your M203 or your Mk 15? I rather suspect not, regardless of the ID you showed them.

“You see, ma’am, I’m an analyst with the CIA who also happens to be with operations and when we need to do an operation in the US, we just use USSS ID’s.”

“Charlie, get the guard’s, we have a loony trying to get on the plane. Are you folks together? Charlie, get the whole flippin’ bomb squad.”

Try to get on an airplane these days with a nail clipper in your pocket. If you have a lighter in your pocket, they want to inspect your shoes to find the fuze. People have been refused a seat on a plane for carrying a nail file. Box cutters seem to be an exception to the rule. If you light up a cigarette, it costs you about \$10,000. I remember when they used to give complimentary packages of 4 cigarettes.

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“Ready to go?”

“The sitters got here yesterday, they flew.”

“What are you driving these days, Arkady?”

“A Mercedes. Very popular with the Russian Mafia.”

“Bruce and I have our pickup. Throw your things in the back of mine and tell Vasily to put his in Bruce’s. We should be able to get to Seattle in about 32 hours driving straight through.”

“How far?”

“Maybe 2,100 miles. Did you bring your weapons?”

“May we?”

“You’d better; I’m not lending you mine. The DCI gave the FBI a heads up, or at least he said he would. How did you come up with Detroit?”

“We’ve had some people keeping any eye on your FBI surveillance team down in Glendale. Just in case the terrorists showed up and were being extra careful.”

“And?”

“One man. Our people said he looked more like a Mexican than an Arab, but he kept a lookout for a couple of days and spotted your FBI people when they changed shifts. He slipped out of Glendale and our people lost him when he got to the Detroit area.”

“Just how many people do you have in this country, Arkady?”

“More than you have in the Federation.”

“Are you sure?”

“Well, no. You know about our Presidents being thicker than thieves, right?”

“Maybe Russia is more open than the United States. What’s going on?”

“That Iran business was done by you for us, and we ran interference. Then we ran interference again when your people took out Syria. We couldn’t spot those B-2’s with a map and a flashlight. You provided us with blueprints for the B-1A and we used them to upgrade the Tu-160’s.”

“Dang, I sure hope the White House knows what it’s doing. You do know that we’ve known about you and Vasily all along, right?”

“It figured, but did you know about Tanya and Sasha?”

“Your wives?”

“Right. They went to The School.”

“I thought that was just a story that DeMille made up. But like I told you, we intercepted your communications.”

“His story yes, but for a while we thought maybe we had a leak.”

“The next thing I know, you’re going to tell me that Red October is a real submarine.”

“Jack, I can’t answer that. But, if I could, I’d probably point out that Clancy got the name wrong.”

“Everyone knows that your submarine fleet is sitting in port rusting away.”

“The old ships, yes. We are still fielding the one NATO calls Akula-II, the fast attack boat. If you remember Clancy’s story, the Red October was basically a Typhoon with a silent drive. Clancy called it a caterpillar drive. Plus, we launched two of the Sierra-II boats. Your Seawolf class was the best thing you ever came up with, but you only built 3.”

“They were too darn expensive, Arkady. The Virginia class is about \$2 billion a boat cheaper.”

“Yes, I read that on Global Security. Is everything there is to know about the United States on the Internet? It sure messes up the spying business.”

“Not everything, no. It’s the cost of an open society and a lot of Congressmen with big mouths.”

“Did they stop the ships?”

“The Coast Guard has them all standing off the coast. We’d better find those explosives or there’ll be hell to pay.”

“Wasn’t this a matter for your FBI?”

“They’re a little slow getting up to speed. Neither that terrorist or your people should have been able to find them in Glendale.”

“But you forget, Jack, I was there. There were only so many buildings with a clear view of that storage locker. Anyway, now that Tanya and Sasha have broken their covers, I don’t expect that the FSB will use us much longer.”

“One last mission and go out with a bang?”

“God, I hope not. Is EO 10995 in effect for this operation?”

“Not that I’ve heard.”

“I hope that they get those terrorists in Detroit. We’re further north than the US and our winters have been hell for the last two years. Rumor has it that the President threatened the Colonel-General with the command of a gulag in northern Siberia. Apparently the Colonel-General recommended that he tell Bush about the terrorists being in Detroit.”

“You told me.”

“Right, but Vasily and I intend to stay in the US. We have a fair amount of money, beautiful wives and the fishing isn’t half bad at the Lake of the Ozarks.”

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“We were lucky, they found the ship,” Jack explained after visiting with a Coast Guard Officer. “They’ve moved it to a location about 10 miles out in the Pacific and a bomb squad is checking out the containers.”

“Are your explosives experts good?”

“Military EOD.”

“I hope...”

The blast was so loud that they heard it where they were in Port Angeles. Jack was watching the ship through a pair of binoculars. It had disappeared into a large cloud of flying metal and spray.

“Dammit,” Bruce exclaimed.

“I’m sorry,” Vasily added.

“How many?” Arkady asked.

“Four men.”

“Sorry,” Arkady said next. “The good news is that whoever was waiting on the explosives won’t be able to use them for something nefarious.”

“According to the Coast Guard and Customs, the paperwork said that the containers were headed for Portland, Oregon.”

“What’s in Oregon?”

“Timber, mountains and farms.”

“Volcanoes? Oh, the Cascade Range.”

Most media outlets were carrying pictures of the ‘Israeli students’ the FBI was searching for. The FBI had photos and their fingerprints; it was just a matter of time. A check with Tel Aviv disclosed that the Passports numbers were genuine, but hadn’t been issued to anyone. Now, the Mossad was involved. These people were unknown to any of the 3 intelligence agencies involved, except possibly to the Mossad but they had nothing to say. Winter was fast approaching, just to make matters worse.

“I hope the kids are ok,” Vasily muttered.

“That Nanny is a nurse, Vasily. Your children are being very well taken care of.”

“Is it normal for a CIA operative to be a baby sitter in this country?”

“Not hardly, these are very special circumstances. We pay her customary wages and the Agency picks up the slack.”

“Clancy never wrote about an arrangement like this in any of his books.”

“Clancy couldn’t even get the nomenclature right for the MP5/10. According to our information, the FSB has several babushkas on its payroll.”

“I didn’t know. Actually, Vasily and I know more about your country than we do our own. That’s one of the reasons why it made sense to move to the United States.”

“Plus your assignment.”

“That, too. But, how much spying can two people do in the middle of Missouri?”

“Four people.”

“Right, Tanya and Sasha. Same question.”

“That’s why nothing has been done to interfere with the two of you turning into survivalist types. The DCI personally took care of the weapons you wanted.”

“Really? I didn’t know.”

“If the people in this country had any idea how much our Presidents collaborate, they’d have a fit. If they knew about the 4 of you, they’d be screaming for your arrests. Most Americans have a thing about Communists. It probably goes back to Joe McCarthy.”

“I’m not a Communist; I’m Russian Orthodox. Besides, you people even have a Communist Party in this country.”

“You guys are way off the subject,” Bruce intervened. “Where are the terrorists planning to hit us next?”

“That’s obvious, buddy, the Cascade Range.”

“There are 15 dormant volcanoes in the Cascade Range in Oregon, assuming you count the Three Sisters as a single mountain.”

“We’ll head back tomorrow, Bruce. There’s nothing we can do here and the FBI can handle it.”

“How about we swing by Yellowstone on the way back? I never did get there, you know.”

“The satellite pictures of Yellowstone show nothing more than a wasteland, Bruce,” Vasily offered. “We can go, but there’s nothing to see.”

“I’m working on a book and I’d like to see it.”

“What are you calling your book, The Great Escape?”

“That’s only Part I.”

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They filled the SAC in Seattle in on what they knew and suspected and left it to the FBI to solve the problem. Technically, it was outside of their Charter. They went to Yellowstone on their way back to Missouri. It looked more like the Moon than northwestern Wyoming. Bruce took some pictures, made some notes and they followed Mona and his escape route for most of the way to Osage Beach. They dropped the two Russian couples off and the Nanny and her husband headed for the airport in St. Louis. It was a somber journey from Osage Beach to Vienna. They visited about the possibilities of the terrorists being able to trigger a volcanic eruption in Oregon. Bruce wrote a follow up piece for the Washington Times and continued to work on his book. Jack, Cindy and Mona were back at the Agency.

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The terrorists did have a plan C; they'd figured it out at the same time as they figured out plan B. It had nothing to do with volcanoes or nuclear weapons. It was all about revenge for the destruction of Saudi Arabia, Iran and now, Syria. They ditched the Israeli Passports in a trashcan and became illegal Mexican immigrants. They set up shop in Reston, Virginia, not that far from Dulles International Airport. Their new hideaway was about 8 miles from where Jack and Bruce owned their homes. If necessary, the terrorists could take local highways all of the way to Andrews AFB in Maryland. They could hook into the Beltway (I-495) via the Dulles Airport Access Road. They figured that all American Presidents were the same so it didn't matter if they got Bush or his successor.

With the terrorists' sudden change in plans, the FBI was left without a clue. The terrorist names and pictures were added to the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist List. Some of the people on the list were wanted since 1985 for hijacking of TWA Flight 847 and killing American diver Robert Stethem.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. Their most recent high profile arrest came when they arrested a guy when he was released from a US prison. He came out the door wearing cuffs and they were able to handle him.

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According to a comprehensive 1999 study by Alan J. Kuperman, some of the estimated 900 to 1,200 FIM-92A Stingers delivered to Afghanistan in the 1980s were diverted while en route through Pakistan. The Stinger is 5' long and weighs 12.5 pounds. It has a range of 1 to 8km, a ceiling of 10,000' and is guided by a fire-and-forget passive infrared seeker. Air Force One has anti-missile systems built in. If the terrorists decided to try and take out AF-1 with a Stinger, they'd be better off, in my opinion, to make an up close and personal shot and hope the defense systems didn't have a chance to kick in. They probably knew that, it is on the Internet if you knew where to look.

If you looked on the Internet, here is what you'd find: The mission of the VC-25A aircraft – Air Force One – is to provide air transport for the President of the United States. The Presidential air transport fleet consists of two specially configured Boeing 747-200B's – tail numbers 28000 and 29000 – with the Air Force designation VC-25A. When the President is aboard either aircraft, or any Air Force aircraft, the radio call sign is "Air Force One". In the early 1990s Air Force One was secretly outfitted with a directed infrared countermeasures (DIRCM) system to protect it from a missile attack. According to some reports, the plane can also eject flares to throw heat-seeking missiles off course.

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Maj. Alton Glenn Miller was only 40 years old when he disappeared. The Iowa-born band leader left behind his wife, Helen, and their two small children – a son, Stevie, adopted in 1942, and a daughter, Jonnie (whom Miller never had a chance to see), adopted in late 1944. Both were adopted from the Cradle Society in Evanston, Ill. The question is what ever happened to Glenn Miller's family? The reason I ask is that someone on IMDb wanted to know. I found the answer after 90 minutes of searching, but do you know the answer? Go ahead and look; and good luck! They've disproved the theory that his plane was brought down by British bombers dropping their bombs after an aborted mission, based on maps of the flights.